

THE BABYLONIAN CONNECTION

BETWEEN ANCIENT AND MODERN RELIGIONS

by
Stephen Jones



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Ancient and Modern
Religions**

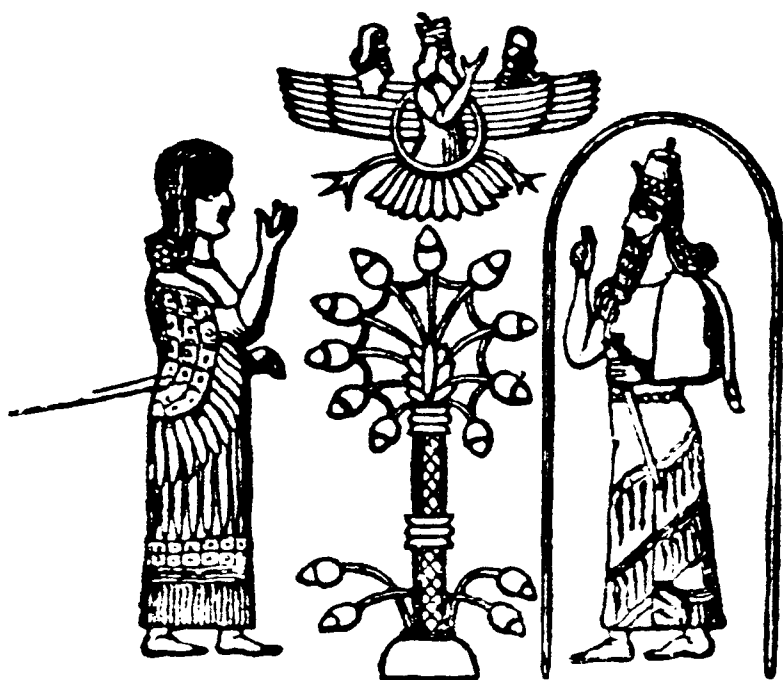
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Ancient Assyrian drawing of Adam and Eve partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

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I.

THE ORIGIN OF "MYSTERY BABYLON"

Religions or worship-rituals alien to the true worship of the God of creation have been widespread since before recorded history. However, the first organizer of false religions appears to have been Nimrod, the grandson of Ham, who was the second son of Noah (Gen. 10:6-8). Nimrod founded Babel (Babylon) after the flood and organized a combination of religion and politics, by which he took under his control much of the old world.

His success in organizing this world-government, and his claims about himself, gave rise to the teaching that he was the promised "seed of the woman" (Gen. 3:15) that had been prophesied to come and save mankind from the results of Adam's transgression and establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth. He was thus called *Zoroaster*, which in the Chaldee (Babylonian) language means "the seed of the woman."

Nimrod's doctrines and rituals of worship thus became known as the religion of Babylon, or Biblically, "Mystery Babylon." From there, Nimrod's religion spread into Egypt, India, China, and later to all other parts of the world.

As we shall see, Nimrod and his priests taught a false interpretation of the religious history of Adam and Eve and of the nature of man. Since the entire educational system in ancient Babylon was controlled by Nimrod's priesthood, the educated class of people were soon all well indoctrinated in the misinterpretation of Genesis 1-3.

All false religions have distinct similarities in doctrine or in ritual to this religion of Nimrod and Babylon. Once we see how Nimrod misinterpreted or mistaught the true Biblical account, we will be able to discover and expose Babylonian falsehoods in modern religions. *The key to unlocking the shackles of the Babylonian deception is in the true interpretation of the first three chapters of Genesis.*

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

II. BABYLONIAN PANTHEISM

The original inhabitants of Babylonia were the swarthy-skinned Accadians. They were "animists," believing that each object in nature was inhabited by a different spirit, or god. They prayed to the spirits that they thought might benefit them, and they appeased those that they believed were malignant.

It is very likely that Nimrod was the man who conquered the Accadians. He did not kill them all or drive them out of the land, but rather absorbed them into his new empire. Babylon thus became the first integrated society, and the effects of this integration proved to be disastrous upon their later civilization.

This conquest is known to historians as the "Semitic" conquest, although it was not strictly Semitic. The term "Semite" in the Biblical sense refers to the descendants of Shem, excluding those of Japheth and Ham, the grandfather of Nimrod. But the modern historians classify them all as Semites, because they all spoke the Semitic language. One such historian is Professor Sayce. Commenting on the religious significance of this conquest, he says:

The result was a form of creed in which the old Accadian faith was bodily taken over by an alien race, but at the same time profoundly modified. It was Accadian religion interpreted by the Semitic mind and belief (*Assyria, Its Princes, Priests, and People*, p. 84).

Nimrod combined Semitic monotheism with Accadian animism to produce "pantheism." He taught that God is nature itself, and each nature-spirit is a part of God.

The immediate result of their adoption of pantheism was the suppression of the Creator-God, who was then interpreted as being the Universe itself. God was the *earth* which nourished man, the *water* which moistened the earth, the *air*

(ether, or spirit of life), and the *fire* of the sun which gave light and heat. Thus creation itself was worshipped as God, or the "Universal Soul." Paul denounced those who taught this perversion:

Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Rom. 1:25).

It was anciently believed that nature was made of four elements: earth, water, air (ether), and fire. To each of these natural elements was assigned an *elemental*, or nature-spirit: Gnomes, Undines, Sylphs, and Salamanders. Each class of nature-spirit was said to be composed of only one of the four elements, and at death they simply disintegrated into that particular element. They were said also to have personalities corresponding to one of the four fixed astrological signs: Taurus, Scorpio, Aquarius, and Leo (respectively). The elementals were thought to live from 300 to 1000 years, but they were not thought to be immortal.

We see then that to the Babylonians, "God" was nature as a whole, consisting of numerous gods called *elementals*.

The elementals were, of course, invisible under most circumstances. This was, they taught, because they consisted only of one element, and so lived in an entirely different vibratory rate than man. The elementals were thought to become visible to those who took certain drugs, and thus the priests were often called "Sorcerers," which word comes from the Greek meaning *pharmacist, druggist, or poisoner*. A good share of modern medicine is based upon the same drugs and poisons used years ago and has its roots in the Mystery Religions of the ancient world. Salvarte informs us:

These unctions were exceedingly frequent in the ancient ceremonies . . . Before consulting the oracle of Trophonius, they were rubbed with oil over the whole body. This preparation certainly concurred to produce the desired vision (*The Occult Sciences*, p. 282).

Hislop says:

They were also anointed with “magical ointments” of the most powerful kind; and these ointments were the means of introducing into their bodily systems such drugs as tended to excite their imaginations and add to the power of the magical drinks they received, that they might be prepared for the visions and revelations that were to be made to them in the Mysteries (*The Two Babylons*, p. 166).

These mysterious drinks used in the Mysteries were composed of wine, honey, water, and flour and were drunk from a golden cup. Of this wine mixture, Hislop says:

From the ingredients avowedly used, and from the nature of others not avowed, but certainly used, there can be no doubt that they were of an intoxicating nature; and till the aspirants had come under their power, till their understandings had been dimmed, and their passions excited by the medicated draught, they were not duly prepared for what they were either to hear or to see (*Ibid.*, p. 5).

The belief in the elementals was probably the result of hallucinations brought about by the use of these intoxicating drinks. The drugged priest or initiate had all sorts of visions and hallucinations but believed he was seeing normally-invisible creatures (the elementals). They did not stop to consider that if these elementals were composed of tangible earthly elements, they should be able to see them or otherwise sense them as easily as the real elements themselves.

The ancients believed that drugs and mysterious gases from cracks in the earth were proper means of contacting the supernatural. But they were deceived by their own imaginations, just as many drugged people are today.

III THE DIVINE PYMANDER

One of the earliest writings of the mystery religions available today is "The Divine Pymander of Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus." Though our present copy was probably revised during the first centuries A.D., it does contain much of the ancient religion. The story claims that Hermes received his teachings from the Great Dragon, the personification of "Universal Life." Because this was his source of "wisdom," it takes no great imagination to connect it with the Edenic serpent. The Mysteries taught that the serpent in the Garden of Eden was actually God Himself, or as the text reads, "Poimandres, the Mind of the Universe, the Creative Intelligence, and the Absolute Emperor of all."

Some defend this doctrine that the Serpent is a symbol of God on the grounds that God chose this symbol in the wilderness to heal the Israelites. Israel had complained against God near the land of Edom:

And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

Therefore the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned . . . pray unto the Lord that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had

bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass,
he lived (Numbers 21:6-9).

Other Bible passages related to this incident are:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
even so must the Son of man be lifted up.

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
have eternal life (John 3:14, 15).

It would be logical to assume that Moses placed the brass serpent upon a cross, since it would be difficult to attach it to a straight pole. Thus, at first glance, it would appear that the Babylonian interpretation is correct in assuming that God has pictured Himself as a serpent. However, the Biblical interpretation is much different than the Babylonian teaching.

When Israel sinned, God sent fiery serpents to kill the Israelites. This illustrates the divine Law that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Paul also tells us that "the sting of death is sin" (1 Cor. 15:56). In other words, sin is death's stinger. In the context of the serpents in the wilderness, we could say that the serpents were symbolic of sin, which "stings," or bites, all men, making us all mortal.

But at the same time God commanded Moses to construct a brass serpent as a remedy to the death (mortality) caused by the other serpents. This remedy came in the form of a *dead serpent*. Remember that at the cross God provided the remedy for our mortality by identifying Himself with our sinful flesh and then dying for us. Paul wrote:

. . . God sending his own Son *in the likeness of sinful flesh*, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh
(Romans 8:3).

For he hath made him to be *sin* for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2 Cor. 5:21).

Therefore, when Christ identified Himself with Moses' serpent, it was not a symbol of God as a *living* serpent, but instead a symbol of a slain and destroyed serpent. The serpent was a picture of what God *became*, when He took the sin of the world upon Himself. "For he hath made him to be sin for us . . ."

In order to hide the truth of God's sacrifice for sin, the Babylonians exalted sin in the form of a serpent and worshipped the serpent as God.

The serpent's Biblical identity is in Revelation 12:9, which reads:

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world . . .

This "great dragon," the deceiver of the whole world, told Hermes that the "Word" (Logos), in moving through the universe, brought forth friction and *fire*, named the "Son of Striving." This Fire in turn created seven Governors, the Spirits of the Planets, who control the world by a power called *destiny*. The Jews called these Governors the "Elohim," and equated them with "the gods" who created the world:

So God ("Elohim") created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Gen. 1:27).

The first created Man (Hermes was told) was called the "Universal Man," who was the Archtype or mold for the rest of mankind. This Universal Man was not earthly at first, but partook of the powers of the seven Governors. He was a

being that was both male and female ("androgynous"), as God Himself was said to be. This was their interpretation of Genesis 1:27 quoted above, and Genesis 5:2, which reads:

Male and female created he them; and blessed them,
and called their name Adam, in the day when they
were created.

In this Primal Adam's desire to understand the mystery of God, he descended to the earth (nature). His original habitation was the sphere of the fixed stars, the eighth plane. To descend to earth he had to pass through the other seven stages, each represented by a planet (Governor). As the sun and moon were considered to be planets, the Seven Governors were: 1) Saturn, 2) Jupiter, 3) Mars, 4) the Sun, 5) Venus, 6) Mercury, and 7) the Moon.

Each of these stages represented a certain type of action or personality trait, which the soul had to pass in order to descend to earth. The final stage, that of the Moon, symbolized the force of generation and growth. So as this Universal Man descended, he became increasingly entrapped by nature. It was said that in looking down into the depths of nature, he saw himself pictured in the waters and fell in love with his mirrored image (the myth of Narcissus). As Nature (Isis) saw him descending, she wrapped herself around the Man she loved.

Thus it was taught that Adam fell into a physical body, or a body of natural elements, while still retaining his "Divine Spark," his immortality. This is the basis for the doctrine that the body is the prison house of an "immortal soul."

At any rate, the union of the Universal Adam with Nature-Isis resulted in seven men being generated. The text does not explain why Adam, being androgynous, required the help of Isis in order to produce these seven offspring. However, they too were androgynous, and they reproduced out of themselves for some time. Eventually, however, said Poimander to Hermes, all the people were separated into

male and female. This separation is their interpretation of Genesis 2:21-23:

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

The ancient religious ceremonies often alluded to this event, for they had a dance, in which the priests would limp sideways as if off balance. They believed that Adam must have been somewhat of a cripple, after God removed a rib from one side. Thus we read in 1 Kings 18:26 —

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon (literally: *limped about*) the altar which was made.

This doctrine of the separation of the sexes is a very important part of the Babylonian scheme of doctrinal teaching. It forms the basis for the Babylonian division of the gods in their pantheon into masculine and feminine. The male deities collectively became known as the *Baalim* and their female counterparts were termed *Ashtoreth*.

This interpretation also was part of the basis for their worship of sex, for sex was the means of man's return to the primal androgynous state of being "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

Poimander then told Hermes the key to salvation, and this is their interpretation of the serpent's promise of immortality:

He who through the error of attachment loves his body, abides wandering in darkness, sensible, and suffering the things of death, but he who realizes that the body is but the tomb of the soul, rises to immortality.

At death the material body of man is returned to the elements from which it came, and the invisible divine man ascends to the source from whence he came, namely the eighth sphere.

The serpent then explained that men were to be deprived of immortality if they did not believe that they were immortal, but would instead be judged and condemned to another cycle of life in another body. When Hermes asked why, the answer came:

To the ignorant the body is supreme and they are incapable of realizing the immortality that is within them. Knowing only the body which is subject to death, they believe in death, because they worship that substance which is the cause and reality of death (*The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, Manly P. Hall, p. 40).

So it can be seen from very early sources that the Mystery religions taught that the first requirement to the attainment of heaven was to believe the serpent's doctrine of the immortality of the soul. Even today many churches teach that those who do not believe in the soul's inherent immortality are following a "false cult" and are doomed.

No one was admitted into the Mysteries unless he believed this original lie of the Serpent. Once admitted, the neophyte began the long philosophical quest for "truth."

But being sent in the wrong direction at the start, he could not help but be deceived on every other doctrine in his religion.

We shall now examine the Biblical account of the temptation of Eve and show that the doctrine of inherent immortality was the serpent's original deception.



IV. THE SERPENT AND IMMORTALITY

THE SERPENT'S LIE

The third chapter of Genesis gives a brief but very important history of the origin of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. The story reads:

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die;

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil (Gen. 3:1-5).

The serpent promised Eve two things: (1) *immortality* ("Ye shall not surely die"), and (2) *wisdom* ("Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"). In this chapter we shall look briefly at the serpent's promise of immortality.

God had stated previously:

. . . Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat;

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest thereof, *thou shalt surely die* (Gen. 2:16, 17).

A more literal translation of the last phrase makes the meaning more clear that God warned them of becoming *mortal*. God was not warning them of some nebulous “spiritual death,” but rather that they would indeed die.

. . . For in the day that you eat from it, *dying you shall die* (literally).

In other words, Adam would not immediately drop dead, but rather, by *a process* of dying, he would die. The English word we use to describe this process is *mortality*.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they did indeed become mortal, and they began to die that very moment. From then on that which Adam would have called “Life” was simply the process of dying, which terminated in his final death.

In contrast to the serpent’s deception, the Bible claims that sinful man shall remain mortal until the resurrection of the dead.

But man dieth, and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? (Job 14:10).

Why died I not from the womb . . . for now should I have lain still and been quiet, I should have *slept*; then had I been *at rest* . . . there the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be *at rest* (Job 3:11-17).

His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day *his thoughts perish* (Ps. 146:4).

The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into *silence* (Ps. 115:17).

For in death there is no remembrance of thee; in the grave who shall give thee thanks? (Ps. 6:5).

For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee; they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day (Is. 38:18-19).

All things come alike to all; there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean . . . they go to the dead . . . The dead know not any thing . . . also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished . . . Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest (Eccl. 9:2-10).

All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again (Eccl. 3:20).

All through the Scriptures, death is called a *rest* and a *sleep*. As the above verses show, there is no thought or remembrance of God in death. There is no praise or giving thanks to God, for death is a place of silence. There is no knowledge or wisdom, no love or hatred, and this event comes to all alike.

There is another event, however, which separates the believers from the unbelievers. A believer's hope is not in his own immortality, but in his future *resurrection*. The Bible says of this event:

. . . We ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience *wait for it* (Rom. 8:23-25).

The Apostles preached Jesus and the resurrection from the dead (Acts 4:2). If we all are immortal in this life, and if the believers go directly to heaven at their death, then the resurrection becomes a useless appendage in our preaching. There would be no need for a resurrection for either believer or unbeliever, if all receive their rewards at the moment of death. There would be no need for the “spirits” to return for their bodies, if they could enjoy heaven or feel the pains of hell adequately while in spirit form.

Is the resurrection the core of Christianity, or is it a useless appendage? We cannot accept the doctrine of the immortality of the soul without destroying the doctrine of the resurrection from the dead. Man shall not attain immortality until the future age of the *new heavens* and the *new earth* (Rev. 21:1). Job foresaw that day when he wrote:

So man lieth down, and riseth not; till the heavens be no more they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep (Job 14:12).

THE BODY

One of the most basic Bible misunderstandings deals with the distinction between body, soul, and spirit. The Babylonians taught that man is a *spirit-being from heaven*, temporarily inhabiting a physical body. This doctrine is foreign to the Scriptures and is directly opposed to Genesis 2:7, which teaches:

And the Lord God formed *man* of the *dust of the ground* . . .

God did not form man's *body* from the dust, but rather *man himself*. Death, then, is a reversal of creation. When Adam sinned, God said that he would eventually die . . .

. . . for dust (literally, *soil*) thou art, and unto dust (*soil*) shalt thou *return* (Gen. 3:19).

Death is a *return* to the original state of non-existence. Man himself *returns* to the earth from whence he was taken.

All go unto one place; all are *of the dust*, and all *turn to dust again* (Eccl. 3:20).

The proposition that only man's *body* dies cannot be found in the Bible. Never do we read that someone's body died, while *he himself* went somewhere else. It always says that the person himself died. One cannot separate the person from his body without adding words or phrases to the original Scriptures. The Bible also never teaches that only man's *body* is dust, but rather that *man himself* was formed from dust, or soil. Man is essentially *soil*, and at death *he himself* returns to that soil from whence he came.

And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (Christ) was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural (literally, *soulish*); and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy (literally, *soilish*); the second man is the Lord from heaven (1 Cor. 15:45-47).

It is doubtless that Adam was given a spirit, and this will be discussed soon. However, Adam himself was primarily *soil*, according to the Scriptural account. This is in direct contrast to Christ, who was primarily spiritual, although He had a physical body. Christ is the only man who was essentially spiritual, rather than physical.

THE SOUL

The Hebrew word *Nephesh* was translated in about 44 different ways in the Authorized Version. For this reason some of the truths about the soul are hidden which can only be understood with the use of a good concordance.

Most people are under the misconception that only *people* have souls. The Bible says, however, that the first souls were created on the fifth day of creation. Genesis 1:20 is the first verse that uses the Hebrew word *Nephesh* (soul):

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature (*Nephesh*, or *soul*) that hath life . . . (1:20).

And God created great whales, and every living creature (*Nephesh*, or *soul*) that moveth . . . (1:21).

On the sixth day of creation, God said:

Let the earth bring forth the living creature (*Nephesh*, or *soul*) after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing . . . (1:24).

After all was created, God gave all these *souls* plant life to eat:

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life (*Nephesh*, or *soul*) I have given every green herb for meat . . . (1:30).

The word *soul* is used of all forms of life that have *blood*. The fact that man was formed “a living soul” (2:7) does not distinguish him from the rest of creation, but rather identifies him with the earth and the soil.

Leviticus 17 is a chapter that is absolutely essential for Bible students to read in order to properly understand the

function of the soul. However, to grasp the significance of this chapter one must also realize that the English words *life* and *soul* as used in this chapter come from the single Hebrew word: *Nephesh*. A consistent rendering of this word clarifies the whole chapter and the doctrine of abstention from eating blood. We shall quote some of these verses and use the word *soul* consistently:

And whatsoever man there be of the House of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that *soul* that eateth blood, and cut him off from among his people.

For the *soul* of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your *souls*; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the *soul*.

For it is the *soul* of all flesh; the blood of it is for the *soul* thereof; therefore I said unto the children of Israel, 'Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh;' for the *soul* of all flesh is in the blood thereof. Who-soever eateth it shall be cut off (Lev. 17:10-12, 14).

When a soul sins, God's Law decrees that:

The *soul* that sinneth, it shall die (Ez. 18:4).

Sin requires death, but God established a means of justification for mankind, so that they would not have to die for their own sins. God did not put away the Law by suspending its just sentences; rather, He provided a substitutionary death for man.

It is especially important to recognize that justification from sin is possible only through the shedding of blood:

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission (Heb. 9:22).

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1975 _____

MY ANSWER: By Billy Graham

BIBLE SAYS PET DOG DOES NOT HAVE SOUL

QUESTION: Do animals have souls? When the devil asked to be put into the swine, and then they jumped into the sea, did the devil just die because the swine didn't have souls? I hope my dog has a soul. D.S.

ANSWER: Your dog has a "soul" that is, if we define that word as "possessing life." In that sense, it's used in Genesis 1:20 and 24.

But if you mean that animals have some existence subsequent to the cessation of the "life principle" in their body, then the answer

is NO — at least as the Bible teaches it.

Man has individuality, denoted in the Scriptures as "pneuma." He is essentially a spiritual being — not limited to the house of flesh in which he lives. The immortal dimension of man was made for fellowship with God, and we only come to fulfillment in life when faith in Christ establishes that relationship.

I don't know why the evil spirits, in that story in Luke 8 you refer to, went into the swine. It may have been that such visible proof of the power of the evil forces was a required element in the man's total cure.

Billy Graham's answer above states the opinion of the majority of the churches today, that animals have a different type of "soul" than does man. He does admit that the word "soul" is used in the Bible to mean "possessing life." By changing the meaning when related to man, he continues the error of Mystery Babylon that man is immortal prior to

being given that immortality at the resurrection. That God considers the soul of both man and animal as their "life" is evident by His acceptance of the animal's life as a sacrifice for the man's life.

Before the coming of Christ, the people were required to sacrifice an animal for their sins. The animal had to die violently. Its blood had to be shed and poured out under the altar (Lev. 4:7, 18, 25, 30). The *blood* was shed as a substitute for man's *soul*, because the soul is in the blood. The *soul* of the animal was killed for the *soul* of the man, and the animal's *soul* (blood) was poured out under the altar.

When Christ, the true "Lamb of God" died as our Final Sacrifice, His *soul* was the actual sacrifice, as Isaiah said:

. . . Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin . . .
(Isaiah 53:10).

Again, Isaiah wrote:

Because He hath *poured out his soul unto death* . . .
(53:12).

This is a direct reference to the *blood* (soul) being poured out under the altar of sacrifice, shed for the salvation of *our souls*.

So it should be clear that in order to understand the nature of the soul, one must understand its connection with the blood.

THE SPIRIT

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath (Hebrew: *Ruach*) of life; and man became a living soul (Gen. 2:7).

The Hebrew word *Ruach* literally means *air in motion*. The "breath of life" is simply the *spirit* of life, for the words

breath and *spirit* both come from this same Hebrew word. God's Spirit, acting upon the dust of the ground that had been formed into a man, brought it to life. The soul is that part of man which contains the life-giving Spirit of God.

Thou sendest forth thy spirit (breath), they are created, and thou renewest the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30).

Life is sustained as long as breathing continues:

All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils (Job 27:3).

The Bible *never* calls man a spirit. Man is composed of flesh and blood (that is, body and soul). The spirit is no more a part of us than the air in our nostrils is. Our lungs pump air into the blood when we breathe, giving life to the blood (soul). Then the blood diffuses this life-giving air to the rest of the body. The spirit *gives* life, but it is not actually our *selves*. Spirit is like the air we breathe; it is something we use—it is not *us*. The spirit is the life-force that animates *man himself*.

Death is essentially a temporary *return* to the original state. The *body* returns to the dust from whence it came; the *soul* returns to Hades (which simply means, *the unseen*; that is, non-existence) from whence it came; and the *spirit* returns to God from whence it came. The spirit does not go into the ground, because it did not come from the ground in the first place. Death is a reversal of creation; hence, the spirit returns to God, Who gave it.

The Bible everywhere teaches that *man himself* returns to the dust of the ground or to the grave, while the spirit returns to God. Death is the result of the separation of the spirit (breath) from the soul (blood). When the breathing stops, the blood loses its life supply, and both flesh and blood begin to corrupt in death. The air (spirit) neither lives

nor dies; it simply gives life for a season and then returns from whence it came. Thus it is written:

Then shall the dust *return* to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall *return* to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7).

Thou takest away their breath (spirit), *they* (the people themselves) *die*, and *return* to their dust (Ps. 104:29).

The spirit is not *you*. Your soul is the seat of your consciousness. When King David died, his spirit went to God, but *David himself did not go to heaven* as it is written:

For David is not ascended into the heavens (Acts 2:34).

This is positive proof that the spirit returning to God does not imply that the person goes to heaven. Jesus died in the same manner, for as He did, he quoted the words of David:

Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit (Ps. 31:5 and Luke 23:46).

So Jesus' spirit went to God at His death; but Jesus did not spend three days in heaven with His Father while His body was in the tomb. We know this, because after His resurrection, He told Mary:

Touch me not; for *I am not yet ascended to my Father* (John 20:17).

Although Jesus' spirit returned to God at His death, we are specifically told in Peter's sermon that *Jesus' soul went to Hades*, the grave. But Jesus expected the Spirit of God to raise Him up out of Hades on the third day. Peter quoted David, showing that both David and Christ looked forward to the resurrection:

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (Hades) . .

He (David) seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell (Acts 2:27, 31).

It was necessary that Jesus *Himself* die in order to pay the penalty for our sins. If Jesus' conscious personality did not really die, then He did not fulfill His mission, and we are yet in our sins. Jesus' spirit returned to God, but Jesus Himself died. His spirit was not His conscious being. The doctrine of man's inherent immortality negates the most important Truth in the Scriptures—that Christ *died* for our sins and rose again the third day.

PRE-EXISTENCE

Did man himself pre-exist in heaven as a spirit? When a man is born and begins to breathe, does a pre-existent spirit come down from heaven and inhabit a body? When a man dies, does that spirit *return* in a conscious state to God in heaven?

The ancient pagan philosophers were all united in their belief that man pre-existed in heaven before coming down to inhabit an earthly body. They taught that man was essentially a *spirit*, and that *he himself* merely inhabited a body. The body was said to be the “prison-house” of the spiritual being himself. Were they correct?

In contrasting Adam from Christ, 1 Cor. 15:47 says:

The first man is of (“from”) the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.

This says specifically that Adam originated in the dust of the earth, whereas Christ was a spiritual being from heaven. Christ is the only man that the Scriptures teach pre-existed

in heaven as a *spirit*. He was God in the flesh, in that He was a spiritual being inhabiting an earthly body.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;

Who, *being in the form of God*, thought it not robbery (“pillaging”) to be equal with God;

But made himself of no reputation (“emptied himself”) and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8).

Let us not have in us a mind in reverse, making ourselves of *great* reputation, taking upon ourselves the form of gods.

There is a passage in Job which is often used to prove the theory of man’s pre-existence. We will quote it in context to show its true meaning:

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding.

Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest?
Or who hath stretched the line upon it?

Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or
who laid the corner stone thereof?

When the morning stars sang together, and all the
sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7).

Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? Or
canst thou guide Arcturus with *his sons*? (Job 38:32).

These questions and many more are listed in Job, chapters 38 to 41. They are known as *rhetorical questions*, which are questions whose answers are so obvious that they need not be stated. God simply stated in these four chapters that *Job was not there* when the sons of God sang and shouted for joy. Job had not been created yet, nor did he exist prior to his being born.

If men did pre-exist in heaven before creation, surely this godly man would have been among them. But Job was not there; and if Job was not, then we were not there either. We were all created from the elements of the earth.

The expression *sons of God* is an idiom similar to *the Lord of hosts*. These phrases have two possible meanings: (1) they are the angelic hosts in heaven, or (2) they are the figurative “people” and “animals” pictured in the star groupings called *constellations*. The constellations and their messages were given by God Himself:

And God said, Let there be lights (stars) in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for *signs*, and for seasons, and for days, and years (Gen. 1:14).

These constellations originally told the entire story of man’s sin and his salvation through Christ in pictorial language. It was man’s first Bible. However, this original star-gospel was perverted in the days of Nimrod, and this Babylonian perversion generally is known today as *astrology*.

God asked Job if he could “guide Arcturus with his sons.” Arcturus is the brightest star in the constellation of *Bootes*, the great Shepherd and Harvester. Bootes is pictured holding a rod and a sickle, and leading his “sons.” The name *Arcturus* means *He cometh*.

The coming of Bootes is interpreted in Revelation 14:14-16 as being the second coming of Christ.

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown and in his hand a sharp sickle.

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap; for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

Bootes is also pictured leading his “sons.” Paul describes these sons in 2 Thessalonians 1:7, which says:

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven *with his mighty angels*.

It is important that we recognize that the “sons of Arcturus are not literal people or animals, but are the other stars or figures in the constellation of Bootes. For further information on the star-gospel, see *The Glory of the Stars*, by E. Raymond Capt.

The passage in Job 38 personifies the constellations by calling them *sons*. But when God named them, He meant that they should be taken as “signs” (Gen. 1:14), rather than as literal animals and people. Neither the people nor the animals are pre-existent spirits who literally live in the heavens.

The Bible does teach that both animals and people have spirits. We have already seen that animals have souls, because they have blood. But because animals must breathe to live, they have within them the spirit, or breath, of life, as it is written:

And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of *all flesh, wherein is the breath (spirit) of life* (Gen. 7:15).

. . . All flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man;

All in whose nostrils was the breath (spirit) of life, of all that was in the dry land, died (Gen. 7:21, 22).

Solomon provides for us another witness to this truth:

For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, *they all have one breath (spirit)* . . .

All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the *spirit of the beast* that goeth downward to the earth? (Eccl. 3:19-21).

Solomon in effect says that because “all go unto one place” at death, no one can prove that the spirit of man goes to heaven, while the spirit of the beast goes to the earth. In writing this Solomon notes the doctrines of the Babylonian priests, who claimed to have such knowledge of life after death. Beasts do have spirits, simply because they also breathe air; but this does not make beasts immortal, any more than it makes people immortal—nor do beasts have their origins in heaven.

The two doctrines—inherent immortality and pre-existence—stand or fall together. Most of what is known as Christendom today accepts the doctrine of immortality without believing its twin, the doctrine of pre-existence. This is totally inconsistent, for at death the spirit is said to *return* to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). How could an “immortal spirit” *return*, if it had not been there previously?

To be consistent, one must follow one of two roads: (1) that all men and animals are immortal spirits who came from heaven and who all return to God when they die, or (2) that all men and animals originate in the dust of the earth and return to it when they die.

We have already shown, however, that man's spirit is not his conscious personality, or being. When the spirit returns to God, *man himself* returns to the dust of the ground, from whence he came. There he awaits the day of resurrection.

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

The writings of the Apostolic fathers (first-generation disciples of Christ's Apostles) show that they believed that the dead sleep in the grave until the resurrection. About 90 A.D. Clement of Rome wrote:

Let us consider, beloved, how the Lord continually proves to us that there shall be a future resurrection, of which He has rendered the Lord Jesus Christ the first-fruits by raising Him from the dead. Let us contemplate, beloved, the resurrection which is at all times taking place . . . Let us behold the fruits, how the sowing of grain takes place. The sower goes forth, and casts it into the ground; and the seed being thus scattered, though dry and naked when it fell upon the earth, is gradually dissolved. Then out of its dissolution the mighty power of the providence of the Lord raises it up again, and from one seed many arise and bring forth fruit (ch. 24).

Ignatius, a disciple of John, wrote an epistle to the Magnesians just before his martyrdom (110-117 A.D.), in which he said:

I am the wheat of God, and let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ. Rather entice the wild beasts, that

they may become my tomb, and may leave nothing of my body; so that when I have *fallen asleep*, I may be no trouble to any one . . . But when I suffer, I shall be the freedman of Jesus, and shall rise again emancipated in Him (ch. 4).

But pagan Gnosticism was on the rise, which, coupled with the philosophies of the Greeks, brought into the church the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. Gnosticism reached its peak around 150 A.D., influencing Christianity everywhere, but especially at Alexandria, Egypt. Origen (185-254 A.D.), who was the most noted of the Alexandrian leaders, taught not only the immortality of the soul, but also the doctrine of pre-existence.

Although the Catholic church later condemned Origen's doctrine of pre-existence, they accepted his position on the state of the dead. Thus Origen became the key figure connecting the Egyptian and Babylonian Mystery religions to Christendom. When Catholicism suppressed all dissenting doctrines, the truth of the state of the dead was stamped out and lost for a thousand years.

Then in 1452 the printing press was invented, and the Scriptures soon were made available to the common people. Literacy greatly increased, and soon men like Tyndale and Luther translated the Scriptures into the common languages of the people.

When men began to read the Bible for themselves, they discovered that they did not need to depend upon earthly priests to interpret God's Word for them—or to intercede to God for their salvation. Most also discovered that they need not fear the Catholic church's threats of torture beyond the grave if they should disobey the Roman priests. These two great discoveries combined to break the power of Rome over the minds of the people.

Nearly all of the great men of the Protestant Reformation taught that the dead sleep in an unconscious state. The only exception of note was John Calvin, who argued for the soul's immortality in his book, *Psychophania* ("soul-sleep"). And

like the Catholic church, he rejected Origen's doctrine of pre-existence.

Calvin founded the Reformed church on the European continent, while his disciple, John Knox, established the Presbyterian church in Scotland. These two churches greatly influenced many to break away from Rome, but they also were largely responsible for the continuance of the teaching of the immortality of the soul.

However, others made a clean break with Rome in both teaching that Jesus was our only High Priest and that the dead sleep in the grave until the resurrection. The main Reformer who condemned the Papacy on these doctrines was Martin Luther. When Pope Leo X issued a Bull in 1513 condemning "all those who assert that the intellectual soul is mortal," Luther responded:

I permit the Pope to make articles of faith for himself and his faithful—such as . . . that the soul is immortal, with all those other monstrous opinions to be found in the Roman dunghill of decretals (Fox, *Life, Death, and Resurrection*, p. 56).

Martin Luther also wrote:

We should learn to view our death in the right light, so that we need not become alarmed on account of it, as unbelief does; because in Christ it is indeed not death, but a fine, sweet and brief *sleep* . . . until the time when He shall call and awaken us together with all His dear children to His eternal glory and joy . . . Scripture everywhere affords such consolation, which speaks of the death of the saints as if they fell *asleep* and were gathered to their fathers, that is, had overcome death through this faith and comfort in Christ, and awaited the Resurrection, together with the saints who preceded them in death (*A Compend of Luther's Theology*, by Hugh Thompson, p. 242).

MY ANSWER: By Billy Graham

HOT OR COLD, HELL IS UTTER MISERY

QUESTION: In one Bible reference, hell is called a "lake of fire." That's hot, right? But in another place, it speaks of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Now, that would be cold. So which is it? Is hell hot or cold? E.S.

ANSWER: The word "hell" in its original root meaning meant to hide or cover. Thus it formerly had the significance of the world of the dead. Now, it has to come to mean the place of punishment in the future life.

Essentially and basically,

hell is banishment from the presence of God for deliberately rejecting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In view of that, to ask whether it is hot or cold is greatly unimportant.

The "gnashing of teeth" you talked about is a reference that occurs six times in Matthew and once in Luke. It's a descriptive term for the utter misery of the lost.

The wonder of the Gospel message is that nobody need fear the judgment of hell. When Jesus said He was "the way," He meant the way to avoid hell and the way to be assured of heaven.

If Martin Luther had been born in our century, the Protestant Reformation would have been directed against those who consign the dead to heaven or hell, including Billy Graham.

William Tyndale (1484-1536) once wrote *An Answer to Sir Thomas More's Dialogue*, in which he refuted More's Catholic viewpoint with the words:

And ye, in putting them (the dead) in Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory, destroy the arguments wherewith Christ and Paul prove the Resurrection . . . And again, if the souls be in Heaven, tell me why they be not in as good case as the angels be? And then *what cause is there of the Resurrection?*

The true faith putteth (teaches) the Resurrection, which we be warned to look for every hour. *The heathen philosophers, denying that, did put that the souls did ever live.* And the Pope joineth together; things so contrary that they cannot agree, no more than the Spirit and the flesh do in a Christian man. And because the fleshly-minded Pope consenteth unto heathen doctrine, therefore he corrupteth the Scripture to stablish it.

Nay, Paul, thou art unlearned; go to Master (Sir Thomas) More, and *learn a new way.* We be not most miserable, though we rise not again; for our souls go to heaven as soon as we be dead, and are there in as great joy as Christ that is risen again. And I marvel that Paul had not comforted the Thessalonians with that doctrine, if he had wist it, that the souls of their dead had been in joy; as he did with the Resurrection, that their dead should rise again. If the souls be in heaven, in as great glory as the angels after your doctrine, *show me what cause should be of the Resurrection!*

Tyndale's point here is that if Christians receive their rewards in heaven at their death, then why should any of those fortunate Christian spirits want to return to earth to reunite with their bodies? Would not physical bodies rather

hinder them than enhance their glory? The hope of the Christian is not that he might somehow survive death, but that he might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Men naturally fear death, and thus we tend to cling to anything that might alleviate us of this fear. We are quick to find solace in believing that “ye shall not surely die.” It appeals to the weakness of our flesh, and the vast majority of our people since Adam have preferred to place our faith in our ability to survive death, rather than in God’s ability to resurrect us from the dead.

For this reason the Reformers’ doctrine in time fell on increasingly-deaf ears. Men soon forgot that the founders of many of their own denominations taught the unconscious state of the dead. Today the true Protestants (those holding the doctrines of the Reformers) have become a minority. In their places have risen Fundamentalists, Modernists, and Pentecostals, most of whom have accepted the original lie of the serpent. The acceptance of this lie has been the door through which many Christians have been led astray into the Mystery religions that trace their origins to Egypt or Babylon.

We shall now study in greater detail the doctrines of Mystery Babylon, their origins, and their fruits.

V.
THE SEXUAL INTERPRETATION OF "THE FALL"

WHAT DID THE MYSTERY RELIGIONS TEACH?

The Mystery religions of the ancient world taught that the tree of knowledge was a *sex tree*, and eating its fruit was symbolic of the sex act. According to this interpretation, the serpent seduced Eve sexually when she "ate" of this "tree." Having learned the secret of procreation from the "serpent," she then was said to have taught Adam this newly-found knowledge. Thus Eve first was said to have had sexual relations with the serpent, whereupon she went to Adam and did the same with him.

The initiates of the Mysteries were taught that Adam and Eve became gods through their knowledge of sex. The serpent was the great benefactor of mankind, having been responsible for giving to us the great secret of attaining *godhood*. It was further taught that the result of their sin was that Eve conceived twice in the same day. She was said to have had twins, one (Cain) was the seed of the serpent, while the other (Abel) was the seed of the woman.

The world teaches that the "sin" in Eden was sexual, and the church by and large either agrees outright or remains silent on the issue. Thus, many, when they first hear the interpretation above, accept it as true, not knowing that they are accepting a false teaching of Mystery Babylon. We shall now reveal the Scriptural interpretation of Genesis 3, which will prove the sexual interpretation taught by Mystery Babylon to be false.

WHO WAS THE SERPENT?

There are those who teach that the serpent was actually a man of a pre-Adamic race, probably a negro. Adam was, of course, the father of the white race, as his name indicates. Strong's Concordance shows that *Adam* means "ruddy." The root of the word means "to show blood (in the face), i.e.,

flush or turn rosy.” The white race alone has the ability to flush or show blood in the face. Our skin is pinkish, rather than a true white, due to the blood vessels showing through the surface of the skin.

It is impossible (except to an evolutionist, to whom all things are possible to him that believeth in unproved theories) for a white man to produce any non-white offspring, unless an ancestor was non-white. It is also genetically absurd to suppose that Adam could have had genes of all the races in his body, thereby producing all the races in his offspring. If that had been the case, there would be no white race at all today, because black is genetically dominant. This alone would have erased all traces of white characteristics at the very beginning.

Furthermore, skin color is one of the lesser differences that separate the races. There are many sharp differences in physical structure, mental development, and social behavior. The modern doctrine that we are all “brothers under the skin” is a theory of modern socialism, which, as we shall see later, derives its faith from the religion of ancient Babylon. However, we shall for now confine our remarks to the Scriptural statements on the subject.

The teaching that the serpent was a negro is based upon the first part of Genesis 3:1, which reads:

Now the serpent was more subtil (wise) than any
beast of the field . . .

It is unfortunate that the Hebrew word *chay* was, in the above verse, rendered “beast.” The word simply means “living” and refers to the living beings that God had created. According to Genesis 1, all animal life that breathes (including fish, who breathe through gills) are listed as *chay-nephesh*. When God breathed into Adam the breath of life, Adam too became a “living soul” (*chay-nephesh*).

Genesis 3:1 thus says that the serpent was wiser than any living souls of the field that God had created. But whether or not the negro should be classified as a *chay* of the field is

irrelevant to this discussion. Genesis 3:1 does *not* teach that the serpent was a *chay*. It merely teaches that the serpent was *more intelligent* than any *chay*. Any statement beyond that is mere speculation. If God had meant the passage to identify the serpent with the *chay* of the field, He would have had Moses write:

Now the serpent was the *most subtil chay* of the field.

But the text does not say that. So we conclude that the Scriptures do *not* teach that the serpent (whom we believe to be Satan) was of that order in creation.

The word translated “serpent” in Genesis 3 is the Hebrew word *nachash*. Appendix 19 of *The Companion Bible* says:

The Heb. for “serpent” (Gen. 3:1) is *nachash* from *nachash*, to hiss, mutter, whisper, as do enchanter. Secondary senses are to *divine*, *enchant*, whence the frequent use of noun as “serpent”. . . the Heb. term probably includes the sense of *fascinate*, *enchant* (see Deut. 18:10 *et al.*). This element of *fascination* connects with the later use of *nachash* as “serpent.”

The Hebrew word *nachash* is used both of literal serpents and of enchanter in general. It is the word used to describe Moses’ rod which turned into a serpent when he threw it upon the ground (Ex. 4:3). The prophet Amos also speaks of a man leaning against a wall and having a “serpent” bite him (Amos 5:19).

The word is used of antichrist people in Deuteronomy 18:10, which says:

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the

fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times,
or an enchanter (*nachash*), or a witch (“sorcerer”).

Nachash is a word which describes an attempt to enchant or gain power over another. This trait was universally ascribed to literal serpents as well as human beings and (as we will see) Satan. It was applied to the Pharisees in the New Testament to describe their desire for power over the rest of mankind by the use of deception.

We can be sure that *nachash* in Genesis 3 was not a literal serpent, for animals have neither the proper tongue to form intelligible words, nor do they have the brain capacity to hold a reasonable conversation. Although the word is occasionally used in connection with people, we have seen that the Biblical account gives no indication that this was what occurred. So *who was the serpent?*

The Apostle John says in Revelation 12:7-9:

And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels
fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and
his angels,

And prevailed not; neither was their place found any
more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that *old serpent*,
called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the
whole world . . .

Appendix 19 of *The Companion Bible* says of this
passage:

Indeed, the explanation added there, that the “old
serpent” is the Devil and Satan, would immediately
lead one to connect the word “old” with the *earlier*
and former mention of the serpent in Gen. 3 . . .

We conclude then that the serpent in Genesis 3 is the being known as the Devil, who, being the father of lies, deceives the whole world. This great Deceiver, if he really did deceive the whole world, surely must have been the deceiver in the garden of Eden.

WAS EVE "SEDUCED" PHYSICALLY?

Having defined the characters in the garden of Eden, we must now see if Eve was *sexually* seduced or *mentally* deceived. The answer largely depends upon the interpretation of the entire scene in context, but for the present we shall confine our remarks to a study of the word translated "beguiled."

We have seen already that the serpent was the *deceiver* of the whole world. Satan obviously has not attempted to sexually seduce the entire population of men and women in the world. So what does the Bible say?

And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent *beguiled* me, and I did eat (Gen. 3:13).

Often it is argued that the word translated *beguiled* actually means "seduced" in a sexual manner. The original Hebrew word used here is *nawshaw*, and this word is defined by Strong's Concordance: "to lead astray, i.e. (mentally) to delude, or (morally) to seduce." Thus we can conclude that, depending upon the context of the passage, the word can mean either mental deception or moral (sexual) seduction. We must keep in mind, however, that *nawshaw* does not have to mean seduction in a sexual way. It literally means *to lead astray*.

Let us see for ourselves how this word is used in the Scriptures. First, the word is *never translated "seduced" in the King James Bible*. On the other hand it is rendered "be deceived" once and "deceived" *ten times*.

When Assyria had surrounded Jerusalem with its army during the days of Hezekiah, king of Judah, Rabshakeh attempted to demoralize the Judean troops on the wall by shouting at them:

Thus saith the king (of Assyria), Let not Hezekiah deceive (*nawshaw*) you; for he shall not be able to deliver you out of his hand (2 Kings 18:29).

Now quite obviously, Rabshakeh was not trying to convince the troops that Hezekiah was trying to *seduce* them sexually. Instead, he claimed that Hezekiah was *deceiving* them mentally. Again, Rabshakeh shouted:

. . . Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive (*nawshaw*) thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria (2 Kings 19:10).

Did Rabshakeh accuse the God of Israel of sexually *seducing* the Judean troops? No, he accused God of *deceiving* them into believing that Jerusalem would not fall. Concerning Edom, the prophet Obadiah wrote:

The pride of thine heart hath deceived (*nawshaw*) thee . . . (vs. 3).

All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border; the men that were at peace with thee have deceived (*nawshaw*) thee, and prevailed against thee (vs. 7).

Did those confederates of Edom sexually *seduce* the Edomites. Was their prevailing over them in actuality a way of saying that Edom was raped? Of course not. Again, the Apostle Paul, writing in Greek, told the Corinthians:

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled (*exapatao*) Eve through his subtilty, so your *minds* should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Cor. 11:3).

What follows is a condemnation of false ministers and a warning to Christians not to be *deceived* by false doctrines. Paul makes the comparison between Satan's beguiling Eve and Satan's ministers beguiling the Christians into believing false doctrine. He says later in the same chapter:

For such are false apostles, *deceitful* workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

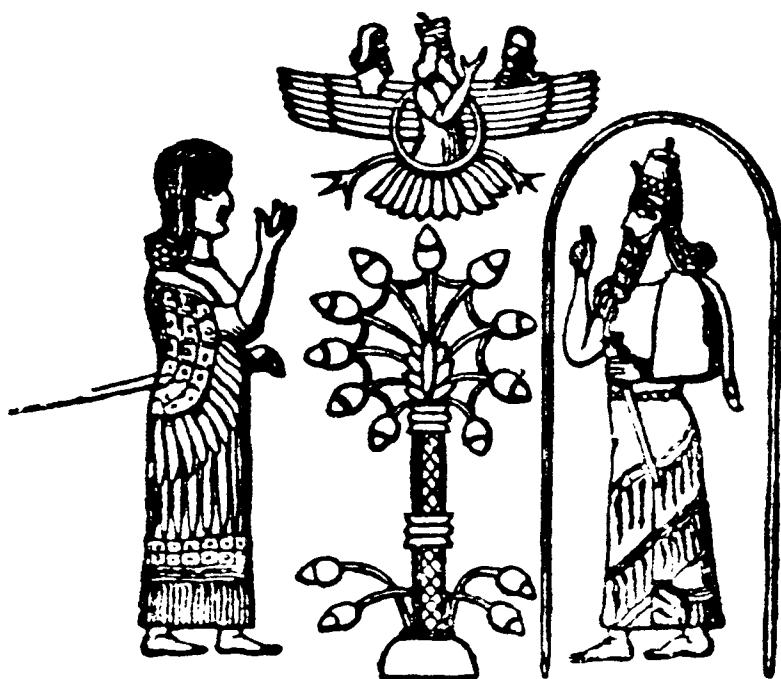
And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Thus Paul compares Satan, "an angel of light," to the false ministers, with the definite implication that they do the same works. And what were those works? This chapter was written to warn against false apostles who come preaching "another Jesus . . . another spirit . . . another gospel" (2 Cor. 11:4).

When Paul tells us that Satan "beguiled" Eve in 2 Cor. 11:3, he uses the Greek word *exapatao*. The root of this word is *apatao*. Strong's Concordance says this word means: "to cheat, delude, or deceive."

Exapatao appears five times in the Greek New Testament. 2 Corinthians 11:3 is the only occasion where it has been rendered "beguiled." In the other four occurrences, it is always translated "deceived." For example, Romans 16:17-20 reads:



Ancient Assyrian drawing of Adam and Eve partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them (vs. 17).

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive (*exapatao*) the *hearts* of the simple (vs. 18).

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly . . . (vs. 20).

Paul wanted the Christians in Rome to avoid those who deceive (*exapatao*) men's *hearts* (Rom. 16:18) and *minds* (2 Cor. 11:3), not their sexual organs. It can easily be seen that Paul could not have been implying sexual seduction in 2 Cor. 11:3 when he speaks of Eve being "beguiled" by the serpent.

This Greek word *exapatao* is used also in 1 Cor. 3:18 and 2 Thess. 2:3. Neither verse has anything to do with sexual seduction. The meaning of *exapatao*, as used in the Bible, is *always* mental deception.

We conclude then that when Eve explained to God that the serpent had "beguiled" her, she meant that he had mentally deceived her. He corrupted the truth of God's Word by preaching another Jesus (God), another spirit, and another gospel, just as Satan's ministers have done all through the ages. And when Eve believed Satan's doctrine, she too was corrupted. *Nawshaw*, as used in Genesis 3:13, had nothing to do with physical seduction.

WHAT WERE THE TREES IN THE GARDEN?

Those who believe that the serpent sexually seduced Eve teach that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was either a man or Satan. To prove this they usually go so far as to say that *all* of the trees in the garden were people, and

therefore, they say, the tree of knowledge was also a being capable of seducing Adam and Eve.

The Bible does often call people and nations “trees.” For example:

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper (Ps. 1:3).

Another example, one which seems to tie this symbolism to the trees in Eden is found in Ezekiel 31. We cannot quote the entire chapter, but we shall attempt to quote enough of it to understand its context:

Son of man, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude; Whom art thou like in thy greatness? (vs. 2).

Behold, the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs (vs. 3).

Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied . . . (vs. 5).

The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him; the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chestnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty (vs. 8).

I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches; so that all the trees of Eden, that were in the garden of God, envied him (vs. 9).

Then after further telling how Assyria has been delivered into the hands of their enemies for destruction and cast into the grave, he says to Pharaoh:

To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? Yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth; thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord God (vs. 18).

The obvious message that Ezekiel was given concerning Pharaoh was that if a tremendous empire like Assyria could be destroyed by God, then surely Pharaoh would also be destroyed.

Both Assyria and Egypt are called “trees,” and the passage states that these “trees” were so great and beautiful that even the trees in Eden were envious of them. If Ezekiel had prophesied in modern America against Russia and its mighty empire, he might have said in the same manner:

Assyria was a great cedar in Lebanon—so great in beauty that even the perfect trees in Eden envied her. But look where Assyria is now. She has fallen to the dust, and do you think, Moscow, that you can escape destruction? Are you so powerful that you can survive my wrath? No, you shall be brought low into the grave with all the rest of the empires of the past for your wickedness!

Would such a prophecy prove that Moscow was one of the “trees” in Eden? No, Moscow was established long after the garden of Eden had passed away. Moscow could not possibly have been one of the national trees, or people, in Eden. In the same way, both the Assyrian and the Egyptian

empires were founded by the descendants of Adam and Eve in the years after the flood.

Does Ezekiel 31 prove that the trees of the garden literally “envied” Assyria and Egypt? No. How could they envy a nation whose founder had not even been born yet? There must be a different message here. What does the Bible teach?

First, God called Assyria and Egypt “trees,” and to describe the greatness of these empires God used language descriptive of beautiful and stately trees. Then continuing in the same symbolic language, He says that these “trees” were more beautiful than the trees had been in Eden. This does not make the trees in Eden to be empires like Assyria and Egypt. Rather, it simply compares the beauty of these *symbolic* “trees” to the beauty of the *literal* trees in Eden, which were reputed to have been perfect and beautiful.

The Scriptures give us no particular reason to suspect that the trees in Eden (other than the trees of life and knowledge) are to be taken symbolically. They were simply a part of creation, just as the animals were. Trees and animals are both often symbolic of people or nations, but to attach symbolic significance to either of them in Genesis 1-3 simply leads to the sex-religion of Babylon.

Before Adam and Eve sinned, they had been given permission to eat of *all the other trees* in the garden, for we read:

And the Lord God commanded the man (Adam), saying, *of every tree* of the garden thou mayest freely eat (Gen. 2:16).

That this command was not limited to Adam alone is evident from the words of Eve during her conversation with the serpent:

. . . *We* may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden (Gen. 3:2).

Did God command Adam to be promiscuous and have sex with all the other “trees” in the garden? The Babylonians believed this, and this interpretation that the trees were other people was the basis for their sex-religion. More details of this will be shown in the next chapters.

But what does the Bible teach? Just two verses after God commanded Adam to eat of all the trees except the one in the middle of the garden, God stated that Adam needed a wife, *because he was alone*.

And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be *alone*; I will make him an help meet for him (Gen. 2:18).

If Adam was commanded to have sex with all the other “trees” in the garden, there would be no reason for God to create Eve. Adam would have had an entire harem to keep him company. Yet God *did* create Eve, because God said that Adam was alone.

When Eve told the serpent that they were both allowed to eat of the other trees, are we to believe that Adam and Eve continued to be promiscuous, even after God had joined them in holy matrimony? Of course not. Let us not accuse God of such unrighteousness. If the trees of the garden are to be taken as being symbolic of other people, then we can only arrive at the blasphemous conclusion that God condones extra-marital sexual relations, and the marriage relationship becomes totally meaningless.

The only trees in the garden that warrant any symbolic interpretation are the tree of knowledge and the tree of life. We shall soon deal with these special trees, but first we shall discuss the nature of the original sin.

HOW DID ADAM SIN?

Scripture clearly indicates that first the serpent convinced Eve to eat fruit from the tree of knowledge, and

then Eve convinced Adam to eat of that same tree. Neither of them ate of the serpent, but of the tree.

In spite of this, those who teach the sexual interpretation always seem to confuse the serpent with the tree of knowledge. One moment they teach that the serpent is either Satan or some man who seduced Eve; but in the next breath they teach that the tree of knowledge was the being who seduced Eve. If we ever hope to come to a clear and consistent understanding of Genesis 3, we must understand that the serpent and the tree are *two separate entities* that symbolize two different things.

We have already shown that the Bible itself interprets the serpent as being Satan, and that the serpent was the one who caused both Adam and Eve to sin. However, Genesis 3 does not indicate that they sinned by eating the fruit of the serpent. Rather, they sinned by eating of the tree, which is an entirely different matter. The serpent only deceived them into eating of that tree.

But let us suppose for the moment that Eve sinned by having sexual relations with the serpent. If this is the proper interpretation of her “eating the fruit,” then how, may we ask, did Adam sin? We know from the passage that Adam sinned by eating from the same tree that Eve did. Thus the sexual interpretation is faced with an unanswerable dilemma. Did Adam also sin by having sexual relations with the serpent (or tree)? In other words, whoever seduced Eve also would have had to have sexual relations with Adam. That would make the serpent (or tree) a bisexual creature.

The other explanation that is often used is that after Eve was “taught” the knowledge of sex by having intercourse with the serpent, she in turn “taught” Adam by having relations with *him*. This interpretation is inconsistent with Scripture, because we are told very definitely that Adam partook of the same tree as did Eve. Furthermore, what could possibly be sinful about Adam having sexual relations with his own wife? God had previously sanctioned their marital status, for we read that when God gave Eve to Adam to be his wife:

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh (Gen. 2:24).

It is inconceivable that God would ordain marriage in chapter 2, telling them to be “one flesh,” and then punish Adam in chapter 3 for having sexual relations with his own wife. If Adam originally sinned by having sexual intercourse with Eve, then the entire institution of holy matrimony is called into question and with it God’s honor.

We see then that Adam could not have sinned by having sexual relations with his own wife. The only other option left to the sexual interpretation is that Adam and Eve were both seduced by one bisexual individual. Could this have occurred? No, this interpretation also is unscriptural, for we read in 1 Timothy 2:14:

And Adam was *not* deceived (*apatao*), but the woman being deceived (*apatao*) was in the transgression.

If *apatao* is to be interpreted as meaning “seduced,” as some insist, then we must be consistent and teach that *Adam was not seduced*, as was Eve. Thus we must discard the notion that the “seducer” could have been a bisexual creature who seduced both Adam and Eve.

We see then that the sexual interpretation cannot answer the basic questions: (1) *Who* seduced Eve, the serpent or the tree? and (2) How did Adam sin, and why is the original sin attributed to Adam, rather than to Eve (1 Cor. 15:22)?

When people first hear the sexual interpretation, it sounds plausible because of their previous conditioning, but we have seen it is inconsistent and contradictory. We shall now present what we believe to be a consistent explanation of Genesis 3 with the correct identity of the tree of knowledge, its fruit, and the true nature of the original sin of both Adam and Eve.

WHAT WAS THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE?

After the serpent had convinced Eve that she would benefit greatly by eating the fruit from the forbidden tree, the account reads:

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat (Gen. 3:6).

There is only one thing in the entire Bible that fits the description given in Genesis 3:6. The tree of knowledge is not symbolic of Satan, nor is it symbolic of sex, for the Bible does not teach either of them to be our source of wisdom or of our knowledge of good and evil. This tree can only represent the *Law of God*.

One of the simplest Scriptural proofs that the tree of knowledge of good and evil must be God's Law is Moses' explanation of what God's Law was and would do:

See, I have set before thee this day *life and good, and death and evil*;

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you *life and death*, blessing and cursing; therefore choose *life*, that both thou and thy seed may live (Deut. 30:15, 19).

Moses told Israel God's Law would give them the knowledge of good and evil, and to disobey it would bring death. That is exactly what the tree of knowledge of good and evil in Eden was to do. The tree then can only represent God's Law. It is one of the lies of the Babylonian Mysteries that such knowledge came to man from Satan or sex.

Let us now look at more of the description of God's Law to see if it fits the tree in Genesis 3:6.

God's Word, or Law, is commonly symbolized by food. It is called "bread" (Matt. 4:4), it is called "milk" (Isaiah 55:1, 2), and it is called "meat" (Matt. 24:45). It is good to "eat," for Jeremiah 15:16 says:

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.

Before Ezekiel was sent to preach to the rebellious House of Israel, he was told to "eat" God's Word, and it was said to be like honey in his mouth (Ez. 3:1-3). The book of Hebrews calls God's Law "meat" also:

But strong *meat* belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both *good and evil* (Heb. 5:14).

Not only is God's Law good for food, but it is also pleasant to the eyes. Those who believe the sexual interpretation teach that the knowledge of sexual reproduction is what enlightens our eyes and gives us true wisdom. The Bible reserves that honor to itself, for God's wisdom alone enlightens the eyes, as we read:

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy Law (Ps. 119:18).

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, *enlightening the eyes* (Ps. 19:8).

The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind (Ps. 146:8).

WHAT WAS THE FRUIT?

Strong's Concordance says that the Hebrew word *periy* translated "fruit" comes from the root word *parah*, which he

defines: "to bear fruit (lit. or fig.); bear, bring forth (fruit), be fruitful, grow, increase."

Periy is also used in Genesis 1:29, speaking of the fruit from literal trees that were created for food. The same word is also used in Exodus 10:15, which says of one of the plagues that came upon Egypt:

. . . and they (the locusts) did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit (*periy*) of the trees which the hail had left . . .

The literal meaning of the word is simply *fruit*, or that which is produced to propagate its species. It is used in different ways, depending upon the application of the word in context of the passage. When applied to plants, animals, and people in a physical sense, *periy* means "offspring." Because Genesis 3:6 uses the word in the context of a tree, it naturally uses the word "fruit," which is the offspring of a tree.

The tree and its fruit both may be literal, but at this point we are only concerned with symbolic meanings. Those who teach the interpretation that Eve was seduced sexually teach that Eve ate *sexual* fruit. In other words, the fruit is said to be sex itself, and when she "ate" of it, she in effect partook of sex. In support of this interpretation are the verses which speak of "the fruit of the womb" (Example: Genesis 30:2).

However, we hope to show that this interpretation is illogical. It breaks the most important rule of interpreting symbolism, that the symbol must resemble that which it is said to represent. It assumes a relationship between the fruit and the tree that cannot exist.

Fruit is not sex, but the *result* of sex. Fruit is that which is produced by a tree as the result of male fertilization (pollination) of the female parts of the blossom. The fruit of the tree cannot possibly represent sex, for sex is not the offspring (or fruit) of a tree.

Of course, it is difficult to logically refute the sexual view, because the serpent and the tree are both said to be

the same individual. Is the "fruit" the offspring of the tree, or is it the offspring of the serpent? Did Adam and Eve "eat" (have sex with) the "fruit" (offspring) of the tree or that of the serpent? Either way, the sexual interpretation assumes that there was offspring before they "ate."

Although the Hebrew word *periy* can have sexual connotations, in that it means "fruit or offspring," we cannot use that literal definition to prove that Adam and Eve had sexual relations with the "tree." The only consistent way to sexually interpret the scene would be to say that Adam and Eve both had sex with the *child* (offspring) of the "tree," or the *child* (offspring) of the "serpent." But this interpretation leads nowhere, because the offspring is said to be the result of the seduction, rather than the seducer himself. There must be a more logical and consistent interpretation of the "fruit."

If we look further at the Hebrew word *periy*, we can easily see that the "fruit" in Genesis 3:6 may symbolize the offspring, or result, of *deeds or doctrines*, rather than physical offspring. Just a few examples in the Bible of passages using *periy* in this manner are:

Therefore shall they eat of the fruit (*periy*) of their own way, and be filled with their own devices (Prov. 1:31).

The fruit (*periy*) of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise (Prov. 11:30).

Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him; for they shall eat the fruit (*periy*) of their doings (Isaiah 3:10).

A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit (*periy*) of his mouth; and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him (Prov. 12:14).

Give her of the fruit (*periy*) of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates (Prov. 31:31).

Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit (*periy*) of lies; because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men (Hosea 10:13).

Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit (*periy*) thereof (Prov. 18:21).

In addition, the New Testament uses the word *fruit* (Greek: *karpos*) in a symbolic manner as well:

But the fruit (*karpos*) of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance . . . (Gal. 5:22, 23).

We see then that “fruit” always refers to offspring, or *results*. In some contexts it indicates offspring as a result of a sexual act. However, we have seen that this interpretation only does violence to Genesis 3:6 and must be discarded.

God’s Law is our source of wisdom. Wisdom is thus the fruit of God’s Law. It is not derived from the knowledge of procreation but is appropriated by reading, absorbing, “eating” God’s Law, the standard of good and evil. Wisdom does not come from the devil, but from God alone, as James tells us:

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (James 1:5).

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17).

After Moses led Israel out of Egypt and gave them God's Laws, statutes, and judgments, he told them:

Keep therefore and do them; for this is your *wisdom* and your *understanding* in the sight of all the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a *wise* and *understanding* people (Deut. 4:6).

Solomon showed the connection between God's Law and true Wisdom in the second chapter of Proverbs:

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

So that thou incline thine ear unto *wisdom*, and apply thine heart to *understanding*;

Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

For the Lord giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding (Prov. 2:1, 2, 5, 6).

Other Bible passages prove God's Law gives man wisdom to know what sin is:

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the Law; for sin is the transgression of the Law (1 John 3:4).

. . . for by the Law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20).

. . . I had not known sin, but by the Law (Rom. 8:7).

Wisdom, generally speaking, implies an ability to conform to the Law of some god or gods. To have such

wisdom obviously requires a knowledge of just what those Laws are. As an example, a chemist would not be considered wise, unless he had a knowledge of the laws which govern actions and reactions of chemical compounds. When applied to the God of the Bible, wisdom requires the knowledge of the laws of Yahweh-God. Those who partake of the wisdom of Yahweh-God's Law automatically become responsible to fulfill His Law perfectly in every situation.

Adam and Eve had been commanded *not* to eat of this tree, and if they did, they would die. Why? Was there death in the tree itself or in its fruit? No. They would die because in eating the fruit two things would happen: (1) they would become responsible to be *wise*, or keep and apply the Law perfectly, and (2) at the same time they would be found in violation of that Law; for the Law demands perfect obedience to God, and God had told them *not* to eat of that tree.

In eating the fruit, Adam and Eve violated the very Law which at the same time they became responsible to keep. So although there was absolutely nothing evil inherent in either the tree or its fruit, there was no possible way that they could avoid its sentence of death for their transgression.

Adam and Eve were commanded to abstain from eating of the Law-tree. Once they had disobeyed, however, they and their descendants were responsible to conform to that tree and to follow its wisdom *on pain of death*. Adam was made responsible to the Law in the same way that Israel was many years later at Mount Sinai, where the people vowed:

. . . All that the Lord hath spoken, we will do (Ex. 19:8).

Thus the tree of knowledge is the Law, and the act of eating its fruit was an "Old Covenant" vow. The conditions of this covenant were that God would bless and save anyone who could fulfill the whole Law. If Adam and Eve had instead eaten from the tree of Life, they would have partaken of immortality and incorruptibility, and history would have

been completely changed. However, God did not have this course of events in His divine plan for the world.

The Law demands perfection and promises life only to those who keep its precepts perfectly. Paul tells us, however, that . . .

. . . the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

Wherefore, the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin (Rom. 7:10-12, 14).

The Law is perfect, but its very perfection kills us, for man is imperfect and “carnal, sold under sin.”

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Therefore, because no mortal man can live up to its standard of righteousness, the Law can justify no one, with the single exception of Christ. Thus Paul concludes:

Therefore, by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the Law is the knowledge of sin (Rom. 3:20).

The perfect justice of the Law demands that the Judge pass the sentence of death upon all law-breakers. The Law can only proclaim sinless people innocent and worthy of life. Since no one is sinless, the Law cannot proclaim any man innocent and worthy of life.

The Law was not given to be the basis for our salvation. It was given to convict the world of sin and pass sentence of death upon all men. Its righteous standard was placed far above our reach, in order that we should not be able to attain immortality by our own works, but that we should instead receive life by the grace and mercy of God.

But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God, which raiseth the dead (2 Cor. 1:9).

Immortality and perfection (incorruptibility) are both resident in Christ alone and are obtainable only by God's grace. As a descendant of Adam, Jesus, the "son of man," was responsible to keep the Law just as we all are. But because He was also the Son of God, He was able to keep it perfectly.

Under the original Law, animals were sacrificed for the atonement for man's sin. Jesus, the perfect Sacrifice for sin, was offered on the cross (tree) for the sin of the world.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law,
Being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree (Gal. 3:13).

The tree on which Christ was crucified parallels the tree of knowledge, for both symbolized the Law. The Law-tree in the garden of Eden passed the sentence of death upon us; but Christ took that sentence upon Himself, nailing it to the Law-tree of the Cross.

Christ did not die to save us from the curse of sexual reproduction but from the sentence of death, the curse of the Law.

WHAT WAS THE TREE OF LIFE?

It must be understood first of all that Adam and Eve were created neither mortal nor immortal. They were obviously

not created mortal, for we read that God told them that they would *become* mortal, only if they ate of the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:17). On the other hand, they could not have been created immortal either, for they had not partaken of the tree of life, the source of immortality:

And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever;

Therefore, the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken (Gen. 3:22, 23).

When Adam and Eve sinned, they, and their descendants after them lost access to the tree of life. The Scriptures tell us that we shall regain access to it in the Kingdom Age, when it shall be in the midst of the New Jerusalem:

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the *tree of life*, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2).

We have seen that the tree of knowledge of good and evil stands for the perfect Law of God and that eating from it brought upon us the sentence of death. The tree of life on the other hand holds the remedy for the sentence of death imposed upon us by the tree of knowledge. Since the Bible makes it plain that both forgiveness for sin and immortality are free gifts from God, we could say that the tree of life stands for God's *grace* through Jesus Christ.

Thus we have the true character and representation of Law and Grace in the two trees in Eden. The tree of life (Grace) does not cancel the tree of the knowledge of good

and evil (Law) but rather cancels the sentence of death and ends the transgression of God's Law.

Paul speaks of two laws that war within the Christian: (1) obedience to God's Law, and (2) the Law of sin (transgression of God's Law). Paul as a Christian, says:

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man;

But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

So then with the mind I myself serve the Law of God; but with the flesh, the law of sin (Rom. 7:22, 23, 25).

Paul goes on to explain that to "walk in the Spirit" is to be obedient to God's Law, and to "walk after the flesh" is to disobey God's Law. Then he explains that Jesus came not to free us from the obligation to obey God's Law, but to free us from the penalty of disobedience—*death*.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (obedience to God's law) hath made me free from the law of sin (transgression) and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh (man's flesh), God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded (disobedient) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is *not subject to the Law of God*, neither can it be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:2-4, 6-8).

Thus we see that the Grace which Christ brought to man did not put away the Law of God; rather, the Law's sentence of death was carried out against Christ, our Substitute. If God had put away the Law, the sentence of death would have been cancelled, and we would not have had to die, nor would Christ have had to be our Sacrifice for sin.

The tree of life (Grace) and the tree of knowledge (Law) both were planted in the same garden by God. They grew together. The Law-tree provided the righteous standard; the Grace-tree provided the means by which the standard could be met. In the fullness of the new creation men will live in total obedience to God's Law, for the New Covenant of Grace promised that God's Law would be written on their hearts and they would sin (transgress God's Law) no more.

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more (Hebrews 10:16, 17).

For this corruptible must put on incorruption (perfect obedience), and this mortal must put on immortality (1 Cor. 15:53).

WHY WERE THEY ASHAMED OF THEIR NAKEDNESS?

The Bible tells us that before Adam and Eve sinned:

. . . they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed (Gen. 2:25).

However, after they partook of the tree:

. . . the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons (Gen. 3:7).

The immediate result of their sin was that they became mortal; that is, death took residence in their flesh. When they became mortal, their eyes were opened just as the serpent had promised in Genesis 3:5—

. . . then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

The obvious implication of this verse is that the opening of their eyes was linked to their newly-found knowledge of good and evil. Before they sinned, they did not know either good or evil, because one cannot recognize evil without having a knowledge of good by which to measure the evil. Likewise, one cannot recognize good without a knowledge of evil by which to contrast the two. There is no short without tall, no black without white, and no evil without good.

Thus when Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge, their eyes were opened to know both good and evil. This was a direct result of their becoming mortal. First they disobeyed God by eating from the Law-tree, and for that act they were made mortal. Then their eyes were opened to know both good and evil, and they *recognized* their mortality in contrast to God's immortality. Genesis 3:8 says:

And they heard the voice of the Lord God . . . and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

The Bible does not tell us that Adam and Eve were ashamed of their nakedness in front of each other. They attempted to hide their nakedness from God. Why were they ashamed before God? Because they had broken His Law,

and they stood naked (mortal) and without excuse. The Scriptures use the words “garments” and “clothing” in relation to immortality, and nakedness in relation to mortality:

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this (mortal body) we groan, earnestly desiring to be *clothed* upon with our house which is from heaven;

If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked.

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, *that mortality might be swallowed up of life* (2 Cor. 5:1-4).

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame (Rev. 16:15).

God told the church in Sardis:

He that overcometh, the same shall be *clothed* in white raiment . . . (Rev. 3:5).

What is this “white raiment?” What clothing do we need to prevent being naked and ashamed at the presence of Christ? John was shown a vision of a great multitude of people, all clothed with “white robes.”

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:13, 14).

The Bride too was dressed in white robes:

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:7, 8).

Isaiah also told of this event, in which the Bride shall be raised in immortality and incorruptibility:

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels (Is. 61:10).

Adam and Eve tried to hide their mortality (nakedness) by making their own covering (salvation by works). This was not sufficient.

Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them (Gen. 3:21).

God's Law provided for animal sacrifice for sin. With the animals slain as a substitute, death was delayed temporarily and God clothed them with the skins which signified that temporary atonement. All of this foreshadowed Christ who would take our sin and mortality (nakedness) upon Himself

as our Sacrifice and provide heavenly clothing, the garments of salvation, immortality.

Christ's sacrifice is not a temporary covering for sin; instead He *redeemed* us from sin and removed it altogether, as it is written:

Behold the Lamb of God which *taketh away* the sin of the world (John 1:29).

We can look forward to the day we shall stand before God "clothed" in righteousness and immortality as the Apostle Paul said:

For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life (2 Cor. 5:4).

We conclude, then, that Adam and Eve's "nakedness" had nothing to do with sex, but was symbolic of the state of all mortals, "naked" until clothed with immortality through Jesus Christ.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO SEEDS

After God had questioned Adam and Eve concerning what they had done, God announced what would then come to pass. To the serpent God said:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (literally, *he*) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise *his* heel (Gen. 3:15).

The word *seed* is a collective noun which can be taken either in the singular or the plural. Studying the context in which the word is used is the only way one can know if *seed* is singular or plural. In Genesis 3:15 the word is obviously to

be taken as both singular and masculine, for its modifying pronouns are *he* and *his*.

Contrast the context of this verse with that of Genesis 17:7, which uses the word *seed* in the plural:

And I will establish my covenant between me and thee (Abraham), and thy *seed* after thee in *their* generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy *seed* after thee.

Whereas in Genesis 17:7 God speaks of Abraham's "seed" and "their generations" (plural), this is definitely not the case with Genesis 3:15, which defines the "seed of the woman" in the singular ("he" and "his"). Who was prophesied to bruise the head of the serpent? Paul tells us:

And *the God of peace* shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly (Rom. 16:20).

Jesus Christ is the God of peace, the seed of the woman. Women do not have seed, for seed is something that only men have. Thus this prophecy could only be fulfilled in Christ, who was not fathered by a descendant of Adam but was born of a virgin. Thus Christ alone fulfills the qualification entailed in the phrase, "seed of the woman." Satan shall be bruised under our feet only because we are "in Christ," a part of His body.

Most of the controversy of Genesis 3:15 surrounds the identity of the seed of the serpent. Those who teach the sexual interpretation claim that Cain was physically fathered by the serpent. They further teach that Abel was the seed of the woman, and that he was fathered by Adam. When Cain killed his brother, Abel was subsequently replaced by Seth, who was another seed (descendant) of the woman.

However, this interpretation does not take into account that Cain was as much the seed of the woman as was Abel and Seth. All three sons were born of the same woman (Eve), regardless of who their father was. If Cain was truly

fathered by the serpent, while Abel was fathered by Adam, then God would have told the serpent:

And I will put enmity between thee and *Adam*, and between thy seed and *Adam's seed*.

However, the Bible does not prophesy conflict between Adam's seed and the serpent's seed. Instead, it speaks of a conflict between the seed of the *woman* and the seed of the *serpent*. If the sexual interpretation were true, then we would have to teach that Cain was *both* the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent at the same time.

It should be obvious that the woman was the mother of both Cain and Abel. There were not two fathers.

Furthermore, seed (the power of procreation) is a physical thing, and outside of God alone, only physical, fleshly beings have seed and can reproduce sexually. Satan is supposedly a spirit-being like the angels in heaven, which "neither marry nor are given in marriage" (Luke 20:34-36).

The sexual interpretation again firmly runs aground on Genesis 4:1, 2, which reads:

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord.

And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

This verse plainly states that Cain was the result of Adam knowing Eve, his wife. The Genesis account is very brief, but if it had meant to tell us that the serpent had fathered Cain, God would not have told us plainly that "Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bare Cain." If there was meant to be no connection between Adam knowing Eve and her conceiving Cain, then we might say the same of other Bible passages that say the same thing:

And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare
Enoch . . . (Gen. 4:17).

And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son,
and called his name Seth . . . (Gen. 4:25).

It is true that Cain is nowhere listed in the genealogies of the descendants of Adam. However, that is not strange, since his murderous act disqualified him from carrying on the birthright and lineage which was to culminate in the birth of Christ. It is not unusual at all to omit the unimportant births. In the first "book of the generations of Adam" found in Genesis 5:1-5, we do not find even Abel listed. Why? Because he died childless and could not provide the lineage to Christ.

Genesis 5:6 tells us that Seth's lineage was to be counted through Enos. Genesis 5:7 tells us that Seth begat other sons and daughters, but their names are not given either, because they were not the direct ancestors of Christ. Therefore, the other names were irrelevant to the main purpose of the genealogical charts, which was not to record *all* of the race, but only the holders of the birthright.

We find many other names omitted in Genesis 5:10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 26, and 30. Finally, after many descendants of Adam had been omitted from the genealogy list, all of Noah's sons are listed. God saw fit to list Shem, Ham, and Japheth, so that we would know the origins of the modern nations and their purposes on the earth.

The first chapter of first Chronicles gives us a shortened version of the lineage chart, and again both Cain and Abel were omitted. The same is true of the chart in Luke 3. Thus we can conclude that Cain's omission from the genealogical record of Adam only shows that he lost the birthright. That it was possible to lose the birthright is also shown by later examples, such as Esau and Reuben.

Therefore, when the Scriptural account tells us that Adam knew Eve, and she gave birth to Cain and Abel, there is absolutely no reason to suspect that it means something

else. If the Bible intended to teach that Cain was fathered by the serpent, it certainly would have made that point clear.

WHY WAS CAIN “OF THAT WICKED ONE?”

Those who teach that Cain was fathered by the serpent often rely heavily upon 1 John 3:12, which says:

Not as Cain, who was *of that wicked one*, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

If John had meant to teach that Cain was a physical child of the devil, he would have written:

Not as Cain who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? *Because his own father was the devil, and his brother's was Adam (or God).*

However, John wrote that Cain was only “of that wicked one” on the grounds that “his own works were evil.” The entire context of this chapter makes this plain, but in verse 8 he defines what he means by “of the devil.”

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

The implication is clear that if we break God's Law, we are also “of the devil.” Furthermore, if Cain's wickedness proves him to be a literal son of the devil, then we would have to say the same of *all* who murder or attempt to murder their brothers. But this simply is not true.

Esau is a good example of how a godly man can father a murderer. Esau despised his birthright and sold it to his brother, Jacob. But later, when their father Isaac was ready to pass the birthright down to the next generation, Esau ignored his earlier vow and would have allowed Isaac to

make him the heir. However, Jacob was able to obtain his birthright through trickery, and Genesis 27:41 says:

And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; *then will I slay my brother Jacob.*

The only reason Esau did not succeed in killing his brother was because Rebecca, his mother, sent Jacob away to live with relatives in a far country. Twenty years later, though, when Jacob returned, Esau still would have killed him, had it not been for the intervention of God on Jacob's behalf.

Why did Esau attempt to murder his own brother? Was it because Esau was fathered by the devil, while Jacob was fathered by Isaac? No, for the genealogical chart in 1 Chronicles 1:34 tells us:

And Abraham begat Isaac. The sons of Isaac: Esau and Israel (or, Jacob).

In the New Testament, Paul writes:

And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived *by one, even by our father Isaac,*

It was said unto her, the elder (Esau) shall serve the younger (Jacob),

As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated (Rom. 9:10, 12, 13).

Thus we may say that Esau was "of the devil," not because he was fathered by Satan, but because his works were evil. Therefore, we conclude that Cain's murderous act does not prove he had a physical tie with the devil, but that he broke God's Law, thus fulfilling the works of the devil.

The expression *children of the devil* is a common idiom used in the Bible. It does not mean literal offspring of the devil through sexual union. A similar expression is found in 1 Samuel 2:12, which says:

Now the sons of Eli were *sons of Belial*; they knew not the Lord.

Eli was a Levite and the High Priest over Israel, while his sons were *sons of Belial*. Why? The last half of the verse gives the reason: "they knew not the Lord."

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were called the *sons of thunder* in Mark 3:17. If we were to take this literally, we would have to teach either that Zebedee's real name was *Thunder*, or that this was the name of Zebedee's wife.

Expressions similar to "son of . . ." are used idiomatically also. Children of the bridechamber (Mark 2:19) are not children born in, or who live in, or who were fathered by, a bridechamber. Rather, they are the wedding guests. Children of light (Luke 16:8) are not children who were fathered by a beam of light, but are those who have been *enlightened* in the truth of God's Word. Children of wisdom (Luke 7:35) are those who are wise. All of these describe some characteristic or work, rather than a physical or genealogical relationship. Jesus said to the Pharisees:

Ye are *of your father the devil*, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for *he is a liar, and the father of it* (John 8:44).

Remembering John's definition that "he that committeth sin is of the devil," Jesus was here simply saying that the Pharisees were doing the devil's works. Since we have already seen that the devil could not have physically

fathered Cain, nor any other human, the Pharisees were “of the devil” idiomatically, not genealogically.

The serpent was the first liar, and Jesus referred to him as the father of lies. Therefore, those who believe and follow the devil’s lies taught in the Mystery religions are followers of Satan, i.e., the “children of the devil.”

Jesus called the Jews serpents and vipers because of their deceptive doctrines, their enchantments, by which they are attempting to gain power over the whole world. They are trying to establish the kingdom of their god, which is absolutely opposed to that of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. For that reason, Paul said of them:

Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us (literally, “chased us out”); and they please not God, and are contrary to all men;

Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway; for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost (1 Thess. 2:15, 16).

We conclude then that the “serpent” did not have sexual relations with Eve, nor did he produce literal children.

IS WORK A CURSE?

We have already shown that Adam and Eve were made mortal as punishment for eating of the tree of knowledge. But God questioned them further about the details of their sin, and on the basis of their answers, God assigned them specific roles which they and their descendants were to fulfill in the course of history.

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow (“labor”) and thy conception; in sorrow (“labor”) thou shalt bring forth children; and thy

desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife . . . cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow (“labor”) shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground . . . (Gen. 3:16-19).

The Hebrew words translated “sorrow” in all three cases come from the same root word *atsab*, which means “to carve; i.e. fabricate or fashion” (Strong’s Concordance). The word refers to work, labor, or toil, rather than to sorrow or pain. For example, we find the same word used in Proverbs 14:23, which says:

In all *labor* there is profit; but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury (or, poverty).

Thus we see that God assigned Adam and Eve *work* to do, rather than “sorrow.”

The Church’s traditional interpretation of Genesis 3:16 for centuries has terrified women into believing that pain in childbirth was to be expected, for who can resist “God’s will?” Dr. Grantly Read tells us:

On the seventh of April, 1853, John Snow anesthetized Queen Victoria when Prince Leopold was born. For the use of anesthetics for this purpose, Simpson was harshly criticized by the Church. To prevent pain during childbirth, he was told, was contrary to religion and the express command of the Scriptures; he had no right “to rob God of the deep,

earnest cries'' of women in childbirth! (*Childbirth Without Fear*, p. 3).

God never meant for women to have great pain and sorrow in bearing children. Doctors tell us that bearing children is the most strenuous type of work that women perform, but great pain only comes when complications arise, or when the mother is *fearful*. Proper instruction in the art of natural childbirth gives women an understanding of the birth process and how to work with the contractions, rather than fearfully fighting them. This eliminates fear and thus can greatly reduce or even eliminate pain altogether, as many testify. Dr. Read writes:

Many women have described their experiences of childbirth as being associated with a spiritual uplifting, the power of which they have never previously been aware. I have witnessed this so often, and been profoundly impressed by the inexplicable transfiguration of women at the moment of their baby's birth, that I have been led, as usual, to ask: Why this? It is not sentimentality; it is not relief from suffering; it is not simply satisfaction of accomplishment. It is bigger than all those things. Can it be that the Creator intended to draw mothers nearest to Himself at the moment of love's fulfillment?

To such a woman, childbirth is a monument of joy within her memory. She turns to it in thought to seek again an ecstasy which passed too soon. The fearless woman advances to the dais of the Almighty to receive the prize for her accomplishment. She does not cringe in anticipation, but is proud and grateful for her just reward (*Ibid.*, p. 13).

The woman was not cursed, but blessed in her motherly role of conception and birth, for the Bible says:

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his *reward* (Ps. 127:3).

One of the Covenant blessings God pronounced upon Abraham and Sarah was that they would have many children:

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies (Gen. 22:17).

And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai, thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

And I will bless her and give thee a son also of her; yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her (Gen. 17:15, 16).

God's statement to Eve that He would multiply her labor and her conception parallels the great Covenant He later gave to Abraham and Sarah of many descendants.

The last part of Genesis 3:16 says:

. . . and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

God gave them the perfect order for marriage with the husband as the head and the wife in obedience, as we find in the New Testament:

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church . . .

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself (Eph. 5:22, 23, 25, 28).

God's order in marriage was not given as a curse upon women. Men and women each have been given specific responsibilities in this world. If their roles are abused, the family and the entire society suffers. But when the wives submit as unto the Lord and the husbands love as Christ loved, the families are blessed.

Just as childbearing was not a curse upon Eve, so also Adam was not cursed when God gave him hard work to do. Genesis 3:17-19 (quoted earlier) tells us that the ground was cursed for Adam's sake, or *for his good*. In other words, the ground would no longer produce an abundance of food without the labor of man. This was God's method of providing work for Adam, and *work is a blessing, not a curse*.

Even today, we can recognize the better health and well-being of men who perform physical labor in comparison to those with sedentary professions. For proof that work is a blessing, obtain and listen to Pastor Emry's cassette tape 7721 on "The Puritan Ethic."

God's pronouncement upon Adam and Eve are then not to be considered a curse, but actually beneficent prophecies of their sojourn upon the earth. They were given the glorious responsibility of bringing children into the world and building a civilized and God-fearing society. The man's labor made him responsible (1) to provide the material needs of the family, and (2) to provide the government for the family, community, and society. On the other hand the woman was given the tremendous responsibility of giving birth to and

rearing the children in the principles necessary to establish God's Kingdom on the earth.

CONCLUSION

The story told in Genesis 3 lays the foundation of the doctrines of man's sin under the Law, his sentence of death, and his redemption to eternal life by grace alone. These doctrines are the core of the Christian religion as taught in the Bible.

The interpretation that the serpent seduced Eve makes sex the core of religion. It hides the truth of the relationship between Law and Grace. It often explains the Bible and history in terms of the serpent's *evil* descendants in conflict with Adam's *good* descendants, whereas the Bible records the depravity of Adam's race and holds them responsible for their sins.

We cannot blame the devil, his children, or anyone else when we fall into sin. The conflict in the Bible is primarily between our desire to serve the Law of God and the death that resides in our flesh (Rom. 7:25).

The natural result of the sexual interpretation is to teach that the good people pre-existed in the heavens with God until the devil and his race defiled the earth with sin. Then Adam's descendants were sent to earth to take it by storm and save it from the devil for God. Thus those who claim Adam as their father are made to feel righteous and immortal without the necessity of Christ's death and resurrection.

If we are to be pleasing to God, we must in humility recognize that all our righteousness is as filthy rags. Genealogy makes no man righteous before the Law or immortal before God. We are all convicted of sin; we all need God's grace; we are all devoid of and unqualified to receive immortality and righteousness; and we shall remain unqualified until we repent, for Luke 13:3 says:

. . . except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Our Biblical presentation is now complete, but we have decided to insert a further section showing the genetic implications of the sexual interpretation. We believe that there is scientific proof that if Eve had been impregnated by any being having the capability to reproduce sexually, then the rest of Eve's offspring could have been contaminated as well.

GENETICS AND TELEGONY

Studies in Genetics were progressing rapidly in the world until the anti-Nazi scare caused people to view any study in heredity with suspicion. The first country to openly declare war on this science was the Soviet government in 1936, when it cancelled its participation in the 1937 International Congress of Genetics. By the early 1940's Genetics was being suppressed in Russia on the grounds that it was "anti-revolutionary." In its place the Soviets officially blessed the environmentalist theory of the botanist, Trofim D. Lysenko. Lysenko, who despised the view that heredity has anything to do with the development of physical or social attributes, said:

Genetics is merely an instrument, like chess or football (*Death of a Science in Russia*, Conway Zirkle, p. 3).

The key to nature, argued Lysenko, was evolutionary development, and any change in environment will cause the organism to evolve in order to adapt to that change in environment. If we plant crops in a northern area that has a short growing season, we will soon develop new strains of crops that will grow in short growing seasons. Breeding cattle and horses was unimportant, he claimed. What we need is to place them in an environment that will promote the evolution of better livestock. Men of every race are equal under the skin, and we only need to put a black man in a

white man's environment to make him equal to the white man in skills, intelligence, and behavior, he claimed.

After a few disastrous years, however, Russia quickly abandoned this false theory, except in its application to society and integration. America and most of the other western nations soon adopted Lysenko's theories, and thus began the government's big push for integration and "equality."

Thus the science of Genetics has been suppressed and ridiculed in favor of "social sciences." Physical anthropology has been replaced almost entirely by social anthropology. *Race* has become a "four-letter word," and anything that now tends to emphasize racial differences or promote racial segregation is illegal.

With the decline of Genetics has also come the burial of a phenomenon known as *telegony*. When it is mentioned at all, it is usually placed in the category of mythology or superstition. Telegony was defined in 1965 in a chapter entitled "Myths of Mating" as follows:

Telegony is the theory that if a female is mated with two or more successive males, the influence of an earlier sire may carry over to offspring of a later father (*Heredity and Environment*, by Amram Scheinfeld and Herbert L. Cooper, M.D., p. 23).

Scheinfeld and Cooper tried to insist the telegony theory was false, saying:

All of these theories have been disproved both by *innumerable experiments* with lower animals and by observing the results of matings among human beings.

With regard to the telegony theory, there have been many instances where a woman has been married first to a man of one race, then to a man of another, without the children of her second husband showing

in the slightest any of the racial traits of her first husband (*Ibid.*).

We shall soon look at some experiments that Scheinfeld and Cooper apparently overlooked in their zeal to quash telegony. But before doing so, let us consider the history of the theory of telegony.

Very little is written on the subject of telegony, and most of what is written merely states the opinions of the authors. Some denounce it, while others treat it as a probable theory or even as fact. Most conclude that it is too bizarre even to admit the possibility.

The controversy began in 1821 with the publication of an article in the British "Philosophical Transactions," telling the story of a mare owned by the Earl of Morton. In 1815 his chestnut Arabian mare was mated to a quagga (a zebra-like horse, now extinct). C. L. Redfield tells us the results of this mating:

. . . the hybrid produced resembled the sire in color and in many peculiarities of form. In 1817, 1818, and 1821 the same mare was covered by a very fine black Arabian horse, and produced successively three foals. Although she had not seen the quagga since 1816, each of the three foals bore his curious and unequivocal markings (*Control of Heredity*, 1903, p. 30).

Redfield gives six other examples of this occurrence in other horses, cattle, and dogs, even quoting the famous horse breeder, Cecil, as saying:

. . . that when a pure-bred animal of any breed has once been pregnant by one of a different breed, she is herself a cross ever after, the purity of her blood having been lost in consequence of this connection (*Ibid.*, p. 31).

A more recent article written in August of 1959 entitled, "Applied Trophology," and marked "Circulation Restricted to Professional Use," commented upon the above-mentioned experience of the Earl of Morton:

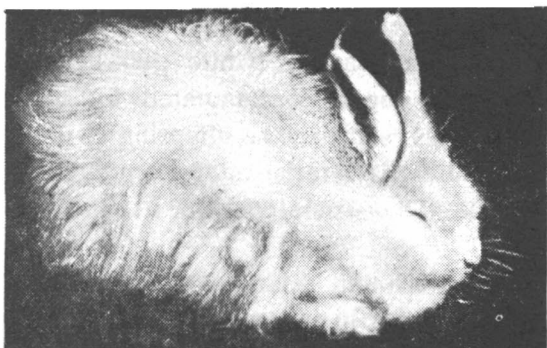
This phenomena known as "telegony" was first noted by an English horse breeder who had a mare that had mated with a zebra and was observed to give birth to colts that all had signs of zebra stripes, even when later mated to pure-bred stallions. Geneticists have denied this possibility only because they were unacquainted with the possible theory of how it could happen (Vol. 3, No. 8, Standard Process Laboratories, Milwaukee, Wis.).

This article goes on to explain biologically how this could take place, but before we give that explanation, we shall look at yet another controlled experiment in telegony.

Strangely enough, this experiment comes from Russia. In 1964 an article was published in Moscow in magazine No. 4 of "Rabbit Breeding and Animal Breeding." The article begins by stating as a matter of fact that when bunnies do not resemble their parents, it usually is assumed that the parents are simply not fully thoroughbred. Then it calls that assumption into question by reporting their experiment with rabbits.

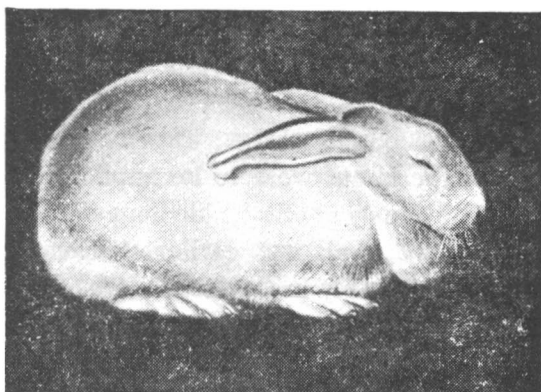
The author, V. A. Zhelnin, first recalled two other Russian scientists who had noted the occurrence of telegony in their experiments with rabbits in 1954. Then he explains that in 1963 a rabbit-breeding farm in Estonia, S.S.R. conducted experiments along the same lines. The rabbits used had been pure-bred to such an extent that they had produced identical offspring for over ten years.

Pure-bred females of the short-furred white giant variety were bred with a long-furred angoran male. The offspring were, of course, hybrids, showing characteristics of both parents. A few months later those same white giant females (who had been mated with the angoran male) were now



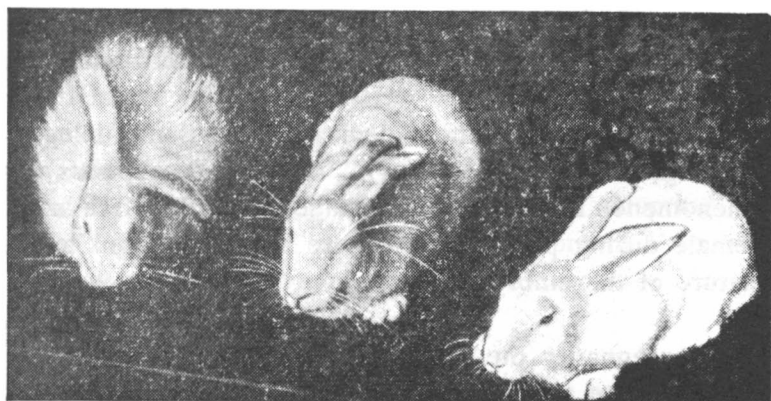
*Самец породы белая
пуховая, возраст 6 лет.*

**First mate
(white downy)**



*Самец породы белый
великан, кровный брат
самки № 4.*

**Second mate
(white giant)**



*Самка № 4 (в середине) породы белый великан со
своим потомством, полученным от спаривания с сам-
цом породы белый великан.*

**Female (white giant) in the middle with offspring from the
white giant mate. Note the white downy characteristics of
the bunny on the left.**

mated with a white giant male. Although this mating was between parents of the same variety (white giant), the female herself had already been contaminated by her previous angoran mate. Thus, some of the offspring of this second litter showed definite characteristics of the previous long-furred angoran mate. The article concludes:

The results of our experiment bear witness that telegony in rabbits can appear in a significant degree and not so rarely as is customarily considered. The mentioned circumstances undoubtedly leads to take into account in the practice of selective-pedigree work.

If the results of this experiment were to be applied to human genetics, it would obviously not fit the ideology of the communist party. But as we explained earlier, because Lysenko's theory failed so miserably in the late 1940's, the Soviets had retreated hastily from their position when applied to animal breeding. Even so, the above article had never been translated into English until 1978, when we obtained the services of Bennett McCutcheon, a graduate student of the Russian language from Arizona State University.

We return now to the biological explanation of telegony given in "Applied Trophology." The article explains this phenomenon in terms of the changes that take place in the female during pregnancy that are directly related to the nature of the embryo:

In pregnancy the rapid cell division promotes the release of greater than normal quantities of protomorphogens into the blood from the embryo, and the maternal gonad becomes loaded up with embryo blueprints, as it were, which causes subsequent germ cells of that female to be contaminated with the blueprints of the father, for all embryo protomorpho-

gens are one-half duplicates of the genes of each parent.

It is obvious, these protomorphogens circulating in the maternal blood influence tissue repair and reconstruction to a tremendous extent.

It will be obvious that this presence of paternal "blueprints" in the blood of a female who has had a child by one husband and subsequently remarries, the children of the latter marriage will be carrying characteristics of both male mates.

The word *protomorphogen* simply means "the earliest beginnings of form or shape." Here it refers to the cells that begin to divide, forming the embryo in the earliest stages of pregnancy. The embryo begins with a single maternal cell that has been fertilized by the seed of the male. It thus contains characteristics of both the father and the mother.

When this newly-fertilized cell begins to divide itself and grow, they say, there is a subsequent release of some protomorphogens into the blood of the mother. (For those who understand medical terminology, these are carried by the platelets and polymorphonuclear leukocytes). These cells in the mother's blood influence tissue repair and reconstruction, and thus the paternal genes could have a definite effect upon the mother herself and all subsequent offspring.

In support of their position, the authors of "Applied Trophology" quote Dr. Austin Flint's *Textbook of Human Physiology*, which says:

A white woman who has had children by a negro may subsequently bear children to a white man, these children presenting some of the unmistakable peculiarities of the negro race.

Dr. Flint then commented on the belief that when a man and a woman have been married to each other for a long

period of years, they begin to resemble each other. This phenomenon is called *saturation*. Dr. Flint asked of telegony:

May we not have here the explanation of the fact, which has frequently been pointed out, that husband and wife show a tendency to grow like each other, both physically and mentally, the resemblance after a long married life being sometimes very striking?

Other examples of the occurrence of telegony in human beings have been noted through the years by those who have taken the time to look for them. In support of its position, the article on "Applied Trophology" gives these examples:

The English Darwinian (Prof. Romanes) met with only one case in which the offspring of a woman by a second husband, who was a white man, showed the influence of her first husband who was a negro. Mr. Herbert Spencer would seem to have been more successful. In *The contemporary Review* for May, 1893, Mr. Spencer gives the result of his own enquiries as to the effect on a white woman's subsequent progeny of a previous union with a negro, and he quotes the opinion of a distinguished correspondent, that information given to him many years ago was to the effect that "the children of white women by a white father had been repeatedly observed to show traces of black blood, in cases where the woman had previous connexion with [i.e., a child by] a negro." Mr. Spencer refers also to Professor Marsh as authority for such a case, and to the opinion of several medical professors who assured him through Dr. W. J. Youmans, that the alleged result "is generally accepted as a fact." He gives as authoritative testimony the following statement by Dr. Austin Flint, taken from his "Textbook of Human Physiology": "A peculiar and it seems to me, an

inexplicable fact is, that previous pregnancies had an influence upon offspring. This is well known to breeders of animals. The same influence is observed in the human subject. A woman may have by a second husband, children who resemble a former husband, and this is particularly well marked in certain instances by the color of the hair and eyes (*Ibid.*).

Again quoting C. L. Redfield:

In a case known to myself, a dark-haired woman had, by a red-haired man, an illegitimate son who had red hair like his father. She afterwards married a dark-haired man and had by him a second son who had red hair like the first. There have also been reported a number of cases, more or less reliable (or unreliable) of white women who bore mulatto children and subsequently bore white children having negro characteristics (*Control of Heredity*, p. 32).

We see then that telegony has been observed for many years in various animals and even in people. Although its opponents (such as Scheinfeld and Cooper, quoted earlier) may claim that "numerous" experiments have been carried out disproving telegony, they fail to include any details of those alleged experiments.

The reason for including telegony in this discussion has been to relate it to the sexual interpretation of Genesis 3. Those who teach that Eve's act was to have had sexual relations with, and to have been impregnated by, a negro, Satan, or anyone other than Adam, cast doubt on the purity of Abel, of Seth, and indeed upon Eve herself. And thus we may even doubt the racial purity of the entire white race, including Jesus Christ Himself. We find this to be unacceptable in the light of the Bible and of history.

VI. THE BABYLONIAN RELIGION AND GENESIS

The Babylonians had a trinity of their highest gods: Anu, Mul-ge (later changed to Bel, or Baal), and Ea (Hea, Heva). Although Ea later was said to be a male deity, he obviously was meant to represent the Biblical Eve. Ea was symbolized by the serpent, was worshipped as the creator and benefactor of mankind, was called the "Lord of Wisdom," and was worshipped chiefly in the city of Eridu, which means *the holy city*. Professor Sayce tells us that Eridu was supposed to be located near . . .

. . . the sacred grove or "garden," the center of the world, where the tree of life and knowledge had its roots (*Assyria*, p. 59).

Ea's association with the serpent alone is strong proof of his identification with Eve. However, it appears as though Adam and Eve were lumped together in the one god, *Ea*. Ea was the source of *wisdom* and the *benefactor* of mankind, in that Adam and Eve supposedly learned sexual matters from the serpent. Ea was also said to be the *creator*, by which they meant that he had been taught the "secret" of *procreation*, or sexual generation.

Eve went under the name of Idaia Mater ("Mother of Knowledge") in Phrygia where she was worshipped at Mount Ida ("Mount of Knowledge"). She was pictured holding out a pomegranate, inviting those seeking initiation to the Mysteries (see illustration on p. 92).

In Essay 10 in *The History of Herodotus*, Vol. 1, 1875 ed., p. 488, Sir Henry Rawlinson tells us:

There are no means at present of determining the precise meaning of the cuneiform *Hea*, which is Babylonian rather than Assyrian, but it may reasonably be supposed to be connected with the Arabic *Hiya*, which equally signified "life," and "a serpent;" for

Hea is not only “the god of knowledge,” but also “of life” . . . and there are very strong grounds indeed for connecting him with the serpent of Scripture and with the Paradisiacal traditions of the tree of knowledge and the tree of life.

The ancient Scandinavian religion also had its origins in Babylon and Assyria. This is shown in the worship of the god Woden, or *Oden*. Godfrey Higgins tells us:

In the Syriac tongue Oden is Adonis; but the *O*, in Syriac or Pushto . . . was the emphatic article *the*. Then Odin would be *the Dn, Dun, or Don*; but Don, we have found meant wisdom or knowledge. Thus we come again to the tree of knowledge or of the garden of Knowledge, or Garden of Adonis.

Commenting on this, Manly P. Hall says:

As Woden therefore means both *wood* and *wisdom*, it does not require a great stretch of the imagination to see in this symbolic name an allusion to the tree of knowledge growing in *O-Don (The-Don, or Eden)*, the garden of Wisdom (*The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, p. 33).

Thus we can see that the story of creation was used and interpreted in such a way as to be the basis of the Babylonian religion of sex and fertility.

The reader will recall from the story of “The Divine Pymander” that the Moon was said to be the last stage in Man’s descent from heaven. Man passed this stage when Eve learned the knowledge of sex and procreation. Eve’s temptation by the serpent was interpreted as a sexual experience, and her eating the fruit was symbolic of Eve having sexual relations with the serpent. Having learned the secret of procreation from the serpent, Eve then was said to have taught Adam, who likewise had relations with Eve.

The Babylonians taught that in Man's ascent back to the heavens, he must again pass through each of the seven planetary stages, the first being that of the Moon. The Moon then became the symbol of sex, and it has enjoyed that reputation ever since then. A. E. Waite, the well-known occult historian wrote:

The so-called descent or advent of the soul into matter is a mystery of generation: The ascent or liberation of the soul from the material world is another mystery of generation. He who understands the secret of the sexes has the key of all things. Physical generation is the consequence of an act of love on the material plane, and it brings souls into the manifestation of mortal life, symbolised as a Garden of Venus (*A New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, Vol. 1, p. 303).

The Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:9) was one of the largest and most influential centers of religion in the ancient world. Herodotus, the "Father of History," wrote about this temple:

In the middle of the precinct there was a tower of solid masonry, a furlong in length and breadth, upon which was raised a second tower, and on that a third, and so on up to eight.

This structure, built by Nimrod, symbolized the eight stages of the planets mentioned previously, which led to heaven. He continued:

On the topmost tower there is a spacious temple, and inside the temple stands a *couch* of unusual size, richly adorned, with a golden table by its side. There is no statue of any kind set up in the place, nor is the chamber occupied of nights by any one but a single native woman, who, as the Chaldeans, the priests of

this god, affirm, is chosen for himself by the deity out of all the women of the land.

So here he described the only furniture in the highest temple, that of a couch, or bed, on which the chosen woman slept with the “god” of the temple.

They also declare—but I for my part do not credit it—that the god comes down in person into this chamber, and sleeps upon the couch. This is like the story told by the Egyptians of what takes place in their city of Thebes, where a woman always passes the night in the temple of the Theban Jupiter. In each case the woman is said to be debarred all intercourse with men. It is also like the custom of Patara, in Lycia, where the priestess who delivers the oracles . . . is shut up in the temple every night (*Herodotus, Bk. 1, pp. 247, 248*).

It takes little imagination to suspect who the “god” was that slept with the priestess. The priests of Egypt taught Alexander the Great one of their most guarded secrets: *that the “gods” were only human beings*. It follows then that the “god” who slept with the priestess of his choice could only have been the high priest. We will have more to say of this later.

Before leaving Herodotus and his description of Babylonian life and religion, let us quote him one more time to show the extent of the perversion in that land.

The Babylonians have one most shameful custom. Every woman born in the country must once in her life go and sit down in the precinct of Venus, and there consort with a stranger . . . Here there is always a great crowd, some coming and others going; lines of cord mark out paths in all directions among the women, and the strangers pass along them to make their choice. A woman who has once taken her seat is

not allowed to return home till one of the strangers throws a silver coin into her lap, and takes her with him beyond the holy ground. When he throws the coin he says these words—"The goddess Mylitta prosper thee." (Venus is called Mylitta by the Assyrians). The silver coin may be of any size; it cannot be refused, for that is forbidden by the law, since once thrown it is sacred. The woman goes with the first man who throws her money, and rejects no one. When she has gone with him, and so satisfied the goddess, she returns home, and from that time forth no gift however great will prevail with her . . . A custom very much like this is found also in certain parts of the island of Cypress (Book 1, pp. 264-266).

Here then is the result of the Babylonian sex religion of the ancient world. In Babylon it was unlawful for any man to marry a virgin. It was their religion for all the women of the land to be adulterous by Biblical standards. Furthermore, the population of Babylonia was a mixture of Accadians and the white race. Therefore, we can conclude that this sex religion forced not only integration, but also interracial sexual relations. About this racial mixture, Sayce wrote:

But Babylonia had not always been in Semitic hands. Its earliest population belonged to another race, and the language which they spoke was agglutinative. Attempts have been made of late to show that this language was akin to that of early China, and that between the first Chinese emigrants to the "Flowery Land" (China) and the pre-Semitic inhabitants of Chaldea there was a racial as well as a linguistic relationship (*Races of the Old Testament*, pp. 60, 61).

The older population was never eradicated. In some parts of the country it was absorbed into the younger and intrusive race; in other parts the younger race was absorbed into it. The Babylonian people

continued to the last to exhibit signs of their mixed descent; now it was the Semitic element which predominated, at other times the non-Semitic (p. 61).

The ancient population of Babylonia was a mixed one, and it is probable that the predominate element in it remained non-Semitic to the end, although it had learned to speak a Semitic idiom (p. 70).

With this mixture of racial stocks integrated in Babylonian society, it was not long before the Semitic population was mongrelized into an off-white racial strain. It was illegal for a woman who had gone to the precinct of Venus to refuse to have sexual relations with *anyone*, regardless of race. It was their religion. It would be only natural to assume then that increasing numbers of households had to raise children of this first adulterous relationship even if they had later married another of their own race.

Babylon was the Mother Harlot of the lesser harlot-churches. Each local mystery denomination, however, knew its gods by names different from other localities. The names of the deities depended upon the particular language spoken there, but the doctrines were all derived from the same Babylonian source. Thus, they were the same religion.

Even today we have religions which follow the same Babylonian doctrines, but which use different names for their gods. Most of them in English-speaking countries call their god by the name of Jesus Christ. But that does not make their religion Christian, nor does it make their initiates Christian. A Christian is one who accepts Jesus Christ and believes the doctrines taught by Him (and the Law and prophets).

We shall now look at the particular denomination which was the popular religion of Israel throughout most of their Palestinian history. It was the religion of Baal, which the prophets without exception denounced. It was a religion of sex, phallic worship, a fertility cult which the Bible utterly

condemns, along with all who associate themselves with it or teach its doctrines.



VII. CANAANITE RELIGION: ANCIENT AND MODERN

THE GROVES

The groves (temples) which the Scriptures denounce so frequently, were actually Babylonian and Canaanite representations of the Garden of Eden. This was where the initiates of the mystery religions in Canaan reached the first step of "perfection" (the stage of the Moon). The initiates went to the grove and had sex with a temple sodomite.

Pillars were often substituted for trees in the groves and were used extensively as phallic symbols to teach the sexual interpretation of the "trees" in the Garden of Eden. Nowadays, unknowing sex-worshippers dance around May Poles, which had their origin in the groves of Canaan. The only difference is that when the prophets in Israel denounced them, the poles were called "Pillars." It is also interesting and far more than coincidental that May Day is the day the Reds in Russia have chosen to show off the military might of their god in holiday parades. It is a part of their religion.

The Baal worship of Canaan was derived from the Babylonian interpretation of the trees in the Garden of Eden. The trees, they claimed, were people (sex symbols), and eating their fruit was sexual intercourse.

God's Law prohibits setting trees or pillars around the altars of temples to aid in worship:

Thou shalt not plant thee a grove of any trees near unto the altar of the Lord thy God, which thou shalt make thee.

Neither shalt thou set thee up any image ("pillar") which the Lord thy God hateth (Deut. 16:21, 22).

This law is consistently broken by churches the world over every Christmas, when the trees are brought into the

churches and set in prominent places near the altars (see *Is Christmas Christian?* by Sheldon Emery).

In a section on the "Religion of the Canaanites," *Halley's Bible Handbook* (24th edition) says:

Baal was their principal god; Ashtoreth, Baal's wife, their principal goddess. *She was the personification of the reproductive principle in nature.* Ishtar was her Babylonian name; Astarte her Greek and Roman name. Baalim, the plural of Baal, were images of Baal; Ashtaroth, the plural of Ashtoreth. Ashera was a sacred pole, cone of stone, or a tree trunk, representing the goddess. Priestesses were temple prostitutes. The worship of Baal, Ashtoreth, and other Canaanite gods consisted in the most extravagant orgies; *their temples were centers of vice* (p. 166).

The centers of worship were called "High Places," because they were located on hills. Ashtoreth was called *Isis* in Egypt and *Diana* in Ephesus. When the Canaanites worshipped this "reproductive principle in nature," they literally worshipped sex.

The priest is the representative of God to his congregation. Any church which tolerates a homosexual to minister to them commits blasphemy in calling God a homosexual. It is not mere corruption. It is a religion.

God's purpose in referring to Himself in the masculine gender is not that He is personally masculine, but that He holds the position of Father to His children. That is, He is the final Authority in the family order. The religion of Babylon required the ordination of women, for they represented the female goddess of nature, Isis, the "Queen of Heaven."

However, it should be made clear that the ordination of women to the priesthood is not the fault of women; it is the fault of the men. Women should not have to shoulder the responsibilities of church and state, as well as that of rearing children. When there is a shortage of responsible men to fill

the positions of leadership, the vacuum will be filled by capable women. America has never had such a tremendous lack of godly *men* bold enough to lead this nation back to God.

SODOMY

Most people in America today do not realize that the current trend to legalize sexual deviation and relations outside of marriage is a *religion*. It is a religion of *sodomy* and is the religion that flourished in Sodom during the time of Abraham. *Sodomy* is an all-inclusive word encompassing the whole religious structure of the Babylonian sex-religion. In the days of Abraham, it was clearly characterized by the legalization and predominance of homosexuality:

. . . The men of the city, even the men of Sodom . . . called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? Bring them out unto us, that we may know them (Gen. 19:4, 5).

If Sodom existed today, it would be lauded as a model city for all of America, having passed "gay rights" laws. Why? Because the religion of Sodom is again in our midst, and those who worship at its altars are clamoring to have sodomy accepted as righteous. But God's law gives society the right to be free of sodomites:

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them (Lev. 20:13).

Worship in the Canaanite groves included all possible sexual aberrations. The priests and priestesses were sex deviates, whose practices are nauseous to those who have God's Law written in their hearts. These priests and priestesses of the groves were called in Hebrew *Kadesh* and

Kadeshah, which are the masculine and feminine forms of the same word, meaning *sodomite*. The Bible uses both of these terms in Deut. 23:17—

There shall be no *whore* (*Kadeshah*) of the daughters of Israel, nor a *sodomite* (*Kadesh*) of the sons of Israel.

The Baal worshippers of Mystery Babylon that rule the world today know that it is necessary to legalize sodomy in order to bring Baal worship to its full fruition. Sodomy is the ritual in their religion. The wicked kings of Judah and Israel legalized sodomy centuries ago and for that reason all Israel was cast out of the land. Only a few outlawed it, such as Asa:

And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did David his father.

And he took away the sodomites out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made (1 Kings 15:11, 12).

In the New Testament Paul wrote of these sodomite disciples of Mystery Babylon:

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? *Be not deceived*; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor *effeminate*, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9, 10).

For this cause God gave them up unto *vile affections*; for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; *men with men*, working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet (Romans 1:26, 27).

Paul meant the “recompence of their error” that was defined by God’s Law, *the death penalty*. Paul concurred with the Law in this matter, and this is shown by his exhortation to Timothy:

But we know that *the law is good, if a man use it lawfully*:

Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners . . .

For whoremongers, *for them that defile themselves with mankind*, for menstealers (“kidnappers”) . . . and if there be any other thing that is *contrary to sound doctrine* (1 Tim. 1:8-10).

Modern advocates of sodomy often attempt to place God on the side of the sodomites. They claim that God loves the sinner and only hates the sin itself. God’s love goes without saying, but love is always defined in terms of His Law. Love is obedience, and God only accepts love if it is according to His Law. We only show true love by fulfilling (obeying) God’s Law.

. . . Love is the fulfilling of the Law (Rom. 13:10).

Those who obey His Law will be blessed, and those who violate it will come under its curses (Lev. 26). God’s Law was written, not to show hatred for anyone, but rather to protect the righteous people in society from the wicked. God’s Law is the citizens’ *Bill of Rights*, designed to protect the law-

abiding citizen from the criminal element. According to God's righteous Law, society has the basic right to be protected from the spread of wickedness in the land, including murder, kidnapping, extortion, and sodomy.

THE MODERN "FEMINIST" MOVEMENT

The so-called "feminists" today are some of the most blatant advocates of Canaanitism in America today. Betty Friedan, the Jewish founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW), essentially began the modern "women's lib" movement with the publication of her book: *The Feminine Mystique*. She and her fellow Jewess, Gloria Steinem, are faithful Canaanitish missionaries to America, attempting to destroy God's Law in the nation.

The Humanist Manifesto outlines the doctrines of this sex religion of Canaan and Babylon. One of its statements declares:

In the area of sexuality we believe that intolerant attitudes often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical culture, unduly repress sexual contact.

Basically, this means that churches who have a deep respect for God's Law and Order are unjust for teaching that free sex, adultery, and homosexuality are wrong. In a booklet called *The Document: A Declaration of Feminism*, these Canaanites teach:

Liberated sexuality is freedom from oppressive sexual stereotyping, the *freedom to choose heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or asexuality*, but not to be bound.

How do they plan to put this goal into operation? They can only do it if they destroy the family unit, which is the

most basic and sacred institution in God's Law-order. Gloria Steinem said in a lecture in Houston, Texas:

For the sake of those who wish to live in equal partnership, we have to *abolish and reform the institution of legal marriage*.

About marriage, *The Document: A Declaration of Feminism* says:

Marriage has existed for the benefit of men, and has been a legally sanctioned method of control over women. *The end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the liberation of women*. Therefore it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not to live individually with men (that is, exclusively with one man). Now we know it is the institution that has failed us, and we must work to destroy it.

Thus the feminist movement not only sanctions, but religiously advocates free sex and even divorce. The same source also shows the true socialistic and communistic goals of the whole feminist doctrine:

With the destruction of the nuclear family, must come a new way of looking at children. They must be seen as the responsibility of the entire society rather than of the individual parents (*Ibid*).

By that they mean that the children must become wards of the State and under their direct control, in order to by-pass any "old-fashioned" ideas of Bible-centered marriage contracts. Gloria Steinem said:

By the year 2000 we will, I hope, raise our children to believe in human potential, *not in God*.

Dr. Mary Jo Bane, Associate director of Wellesley College's Center for Research on Women, stated:

We really don't know how to raise children. If we want to talk about equality of opportunity for children, then the fact that children are raised in families means there's no equality. It's a dilemma. In order to raise children with equality, we must take them away from families and communally raise them . . . ("Tulsa Sunday World," August 21, 1977).

The legislation dealing with federally-funded day-care centers is also a product of the women's liberation movement. On page 14 of *The Revolution Tomorrow is NOW* is the resolution:

Resolved that NOW actively work to have federal and state governments set up day care centers for children of all ages. NOW endorses the goal of *developmental care* based on a child's needs at various ages, *rather than mere custodial care*.

These are simply the totalitarian doctrines of Mystery Babylon that have been given a "face lift." If these were simply different opinions and ideas, these people would not be pushing their doctrines so strongly. But they write letters, march on state capitals, and picket in the streets, because *it is their religion*.

Were these Canaanite missionaries to succeed in their proselytizing any great number of people, America would find itself *not* with a class of liberated women, but with an entire society where the children would have just one parent—the state. This so-called "liberation" is simply another attempt to put away God's Law, which is the true source of liberty. The Bible says:

But whoso looketh into the perfect *law of liberty*, and

continueth therein, he being *not* a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:25).

ABORTION

The State's assumed role of Parent (some call it "Big Brother") has given it the right to legalize abortion as well, as if it were the legal father. Abortion was an ancient practice, common enough for a second-century Christian to write:

Thou shalt not destroy thy conceptions before they are brought forth; nor kill them after they are born (Barnabas 14:11).

There is little difference between killing babies in the womb and killing them after they are born. The murder-principle is the same, and they will be treated alike here.

Halley's Bible Handbook tells of the excavation of an ancient High Place of Baal and Astoreth found at Gezer at the turn of the last century:

Under the debris, in this "High Place," Macalister found great numbers of jars containing the remains of children who had been sacrificed to Baal. The whole area proved to be a cemetery for new-born babes (p. 166).

Also in this "High Place," under the rubbish, Macalister found *enormous quantities* of images and plaques of Ashtoreth with rudely exaggerated sex organs, designed to foster sensual feelings (p. 167).

So, the Canaanites worshipped, by immoral indulgence, as a religious rite, in the presence of their gods, and then by murdering their first-born children, as a sacrifice to these same gods (p. 167).

The reader will recall the Mystery religions' doctrine that the serpent sexually seduced Eve in the Garden, causing her to "fall." The purpose of sexuality in the groves was to "purify" the woman by re-enacting the Genesis scene. Eve fell through a sexual act, they taught, and thus the only way women could be justified (or, reverse the effects of her sin) was through the same act.

The Canaanites taught that the serpent in the Garden was God (whom they called *Baal*). The women who came to be purified in the groves could not literally have sexual relations with Baal, so this was done through Baal's representative, or minister, called the temple sodomite.

The Canaanites were also aware of the ancient prophecy that God would send His Son to earth to be the sacrifice for sin. Thus, the "purified" women who had children by Baal's representatives were required to bring these first-born children back to the grove, for they were the "sons of god." The children were then given to Baal, that is, sacrificed on his altar. This was the Canaanite method of justifying sin and reversing the effects of Adam and Eve's transgression.

Hislop gives a further light on this practice, showing the utter degradation to which they had sunk:

When "the fruit of the body" was thus offered, it was "for the sin of the soul." And it was a principle of the Mosaic law, a principle no doubt derived from patriarchal faith, that the priest must partake of whatever was offered as a sin-offering (Numbers 28:9, 10). Hence, the priests of Nimrod or Baal were necessarily required to eat of the human sacrifices; and thus it has come to pass that "Cahna-Bal," the "Priest of Baal," is the established word in our own tongue for a devourer of human flesh (*The Two Babylons*, p. 232).

In America today Baal-worshipping television moguls and smut dealers vomit their pornography into the living rooms of millions of Americans. They distribute their

religious tracts and sex magazines by the ton on the street corners of every major city. When this religion "bears fruit" in young girls, the parents send their pregnant daughters to the Baal priests of "Planned Parenthood," who make commissions on every girl they can convince to go to the baby-sacrificing abortion clinics.

There on the altars of the medicine men the first-born children of millions of young girls are sacrificed to Baal and Ashtoreth. This is not mere corruption, nor is it merely murder. *It is their religion.* Christians the world over shrink in horror at the practices of the ancient Canaanites, but most do not even recognize Baal worship in their own cities! Halley shows us the connection between baby-murder and Baal religion:

Prophets of Baal and Ashtoreth were official murderers of little children (p. 198).

If the abortion doctrine was merely a legal matter, then why do these people actively proselytize? And why does the New England Medical Society go out of its way to *honor* abortionists? It is their religion!

When Israel sinned in worshipping Baal, Hosea prophesied of judgment:

. . . Their glory shall fly away like a bird, from the birth, and from the womb, and *from the conception.*

. . . Ephraim shall bring forth his children to the murderer.

. . . Though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb (Hosea 9:11-16).

The legalization of abortion on demand is proof that Americans are worshipping Baal and are under the tyrannical control of Baal's dictator-priests. Abortion is one of the worst punishments that God inflicts upon a nation, short of

driving them out of their country and selling them into slavery to their enemies in a foreign country.

Hosea prophesied that in the midst of free sex throughout the land, Israel would not increase in population:

For they shall eat, and not have enough; they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase; because they have left off to take heed to the Lord (Hosea 4:10).

This prophesy has been fulfilled mainly through the legalization of abortion.

In Washington D.C. one hot holiday week-end, a number of complaints were registered, concerning the horrible stench surrounding an abortion clinic. Upon investigation, it was discovered that some of the clinic's garbage cans had been overturned, exposing the rotting flesh of aborted babies. The Monday morning garbage truck had not come, because it was a holiday.

Many cities, in order to defray the cost of garbage collection, sell their garbage to hog farms. Private garbage-collection agencies do the same. Swine eat nearly anything, and witnesses have seen them eating human limbs from hospital garbage pick-ups. How many abortion clinics around the country have sold aborted babies to hog farms? How many fattened hogs are butchered and sold to the average housewife, who cares nothing for God's health laws that forbid the consumption of these unclean foods? One of the final curses of disobeying God's Law is:

And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee . . . (Deut. 28:53).

Isaiah prophesies of the age in which we live today, just prior to the second coming of Christ. He strongly implies that worship in the groves involved the eating of unclean things:

Phoenix Gazette
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Physician In Abortion Case Picked

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Dr. Kenneth Edelin, whose manslaughter conviction in the death of an aborted fetus was overturned by the Massachusetts Supreme Court last year, has been elected president of the New England Medical Society.

Edelin, a black, said he felt the society would play an important role in determining how health care should be delivered to minorities.

The society is a regional affiliate of the National Medical Association Inc., which represents a majority of black physicians throughout the United States. It is comprised of state affiliates in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Connecticut.

They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the Lord (Is. 66:17).

In other words, in Baal worship the people were taught to purify themselves from sin by going to the "gardens" (groves). There, not only did the priest murder and eat the first-born children, but the people themselves were required to eat swine's flesh and other abominable and unclean animals. This was religious doctrine. People today would not be guilty of eating their own children, if they would not break God's law.

Because these Laws of God are not always fulfilled in conspicuous ways, we often do not recognize when we have come under the curses of the Law. There have been millions of abortions performed in the past few years. How many people in America have eaten swine's flesh fattened on the bodies of our own children? Are we fulfilling the same sins of Canaan that the priests of Baal (the "Cahna-Bals") did as religious rites thousands of years ago? For further information, listen to Pastor Emry's tape on "The Seven Sins of Canaan."

UNINTENTIONAL BAAL WORSHIP TODAY

The religion of Babylon was the popular religion of Israel almost exclusively after the death of Joshua. Christians today read Israel's history in the books of the Kings and Chronicles and in the prophetic writings, and they marvel how Israel could turn to this idolatry so quickly and so consistently. Yet the Babylonian religion is *still* the popular religion in our midst today.

One of the best illustrations in the Bible of God's displeasure with the worship of Baal is found in 2 Kings 23. This chapter tells of the reformation which Josiah enforced in Judah, and it shows us by example how we are to repent

as a nation. After vowing to walk after the true God of Israel, Josiah commanded the High Priest . . .

. . . to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove ("Asherah"), and for all the host of heaven (2 Kings 23:4).

Josiah then burned them and even disposed of the ashes. Then follows a short description of this worship of Baal:

And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to all the planets (literally, *the signs of the zodiac*), and to all the host of heaven (2 Kings 23:5).

So we find also that the Canaanites had adopted Babylonian astrology, and the Judahites followed suit. Josiah's reformation continued:

And he broke down the houses of the sodomites (the ordained homosexuals) that were by the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings (literally, *tents*) for the grove (2 Kings 23:7).

Josiah even had to destroy high places which Solomon had built . . .

. . . for Ashtoreth, the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh, the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom, the abomination of the children of Ammon. . . . (2 Kings 23:13).

These were the local denominational churches of Mystery Babylon in and around Canaan. Each nation had a

different name for its god, according to their own language, but their doctrines were basically the same. It matters not what a church calls its god; if its *doctrines* fit Mystery Babylon, it is part of that religion. We again read of Josiah:

And he slew (literally, *sacrificed*) all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem (2 Kings 23:20).

Just as those priests had taught the people doctrines which caused them to make their children pass through the fire to Molech (2 Kings 23:10), so also Josiah recompensed their evil deeds upon their own murderous heads.

Each parishioner of the Canaanite groves, as we discussed earlier, was required to bring his first-born child to the groves and offer it to Baal in sacrifice for his sins. The child was said to be the seed of both the woman and the serpent (Baal), for it was often engendered during the woman's "purification" sex ceremony. Being the son of their god, Baal, the sacrificed child was a false christ.

The child was not merely slain, however, but was *burned alive* in order to teach the people the doctrine of hell-fire. The child was said to be paying the penalty for their sin in this fire, for to them, the wages of sin was hell-fire in a conscious state. The Bible, however, teaches that:

The wages of sin is *death*, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rom. 6:23).

The doctrine that God will burn 95% of His children in a torturing fire for eternity is part of the Babylonian religious structure. It all begins with the serpent's lie, for torture in hell-fire is possible only if men are immortal, and if God's merciful judgments have been annulled. God's Law does not demand torture, even if some clergymen think the people deserve it. But if the wages of sin is hell-fire *forever*, as

many teach, then obviously Jesus must now be in hell, suffering its tortures forever in an attempt to pay for our sins. But Christ's resurrection utterly disproves that notion.

When Israel adopted the doctrines of Baal and burned their children, God denounced them, saying:

And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom (Gehenna) to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded not, *neither came it into my mind*, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin (Jer. 32:35).

In Jeremiah's day the people and the priests could not understand what they had done to deserve Jeremiah's severe denunciations. Jeremiah accused them not only of Baal worship, but of not even knowing that it was Baal worship:

Yet thou sayest, "Because I am innocent, surely His anger shall turn from me." Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, "I have not sinned" (Jer. 2:35).

How do ye say, "We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us?" Lo, certainly, the false pen of the scribes make falsehoods (literal translation, Jer. 8:8).

It is obvious that many religious leaders of Jeremiah's day *thought* that they were worshipping the true God and *thought* that they were no longer responsible to keep God's Law. They nullified God's Law with their false interpretations and doctrines:

Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, "*We are delivered to do all these abominations?*" (Jer. 7:9, 10).

How many churches which are called by the name of Jesus Christ in America today stand accused by Jeremiah's words? The ancient corrupted priesthood in Jerusalem also had the doctrine of antinomianism (anti-law). They also claimed that they were freed ("delivered") from the law, so that they were allowed to break God's Law. Jeremiah 23 is a terrible indictment against the prophets and the priests who did not preach God's Word correctly. All of the charges laid at their feet are summed up with the words:

. . . for ye have perverted the words of the living God (Jer. 23:36).

It was not that they did not have the Word of God at their disposal, but rather that they perverted God's Word and used it to teach false doctrines, the wine of Babylon. It all began with the Babylonian misinterpretation of Genesis, and the sexual debauchery it engendered. If we examine the doctrines taught in our public schools, the theaters, and the churches, it will not be difficult to see the mystery of iniquity still popular in our midst.

Drugs, pornography, injustice in the courts, rampant sexual perversions, and venereal diseases are all a part of the Babylonian religion. Thousands of churches across the country preach that God burns his immortal children for eternity in fire. Bookstores sell "science fiction" books about space travel and colonies on other planets in order to make "going to heaven" more plausible. Television sets vomit every abomination known into the laps of untold millions of Americans every night. Perfume companies picture Eve with a bottle of perfume, and the message is clear—buy our perfume, and you too will be able to seduce men into "falling" for you.

There is no escape. The antichrists of Mystery Babylon now rule the world, and the earth has been drenched with the blood of the saints. Every aspect of our lives is today under the control of that world power. We are even now in captivity to the god of Babylon. Baal-worship is still the popular religion of the world. Both the government and the churches have been defiled with the wine (doctrines) of Babylon:

But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; *the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink*, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean (Isaiah 28:7, 8).

Why are we under this captivity to Mystery Babylon? It is a principle of God's Word that God puts His people into captivity to the gods whose doctrines they believe and obey. When Israel served the gods of the Philistines and the Ammonites, God sold Israel into their hands (Judg. 10). When Israel worshipped the gods of Babylon and Assyria, God put Israel into captivity to those nations (2 Kings 17:18).

The only solution is to repent and have nothing to do with the Babylonian religion. One of Hosea's denunciations of Israel's worship was that "they sacrifice with harlots" (Hosea 4:14). The modern equivalent to sacrificing with harlots (or, literally, "sodomites") is worshipping in a church where the doctrines of Baal are taught.

Revelation 18 and 19 tell the story of the coming fall of Mystery Babylon and the plagues which God is pouring upon her. Those who remain attached to her will also be hurt by God's plagues. God loves His children, and thus He pleads with them to flee from her, so that the plagues will not come upon them as well:

. . . Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (Rev. 18:4).

Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul; be not cut off in her iniquity; for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He will render unto her a recompense (Jer. 51:6).

America shall be delivered from the tyranny of Baal and the sexual revolution when Americans renounce Baal in the name of Christ, and when they repent, turn to God, and seek His Kingdom with all their hearts.



VIII.

BABYLONIAN RELIGION IN THE UPPER DEGREES

The ancient mystery religions all had secret doctrines which contradicted that which was taught to the people in general. The non-initiates were taught that the way to get to heaven was to join their religion, and if they did not, they would go to hell and suffer its tortures. They taught little else to the public, in order to scare them into joining their denomination.

The first absolute requirement for the initiate's baptism into the mystery denomination of his choice was to profess belief in the immortality of the soul. Once initiated and bound by numerous oaths to secrecy, he was taught that ordinary sins (as defined by the High Priest) could be expiated by repentance, prayers, and penance, but that certain crimes were "mortal sins," beyond any remedy. Those not reaching perfection (the higher degrees in instruction) by the time of their deaths went to a place called "Paradise." There Cerberus, the guardian of the gates, stood near the scales of justice, while Osiris weighed the man's good works against his sins. Wilkinson tells us:

If on being weighed, he is found wanting, he is rejected, and Osiris, the judge of the dead, inclining his sceptre in token of condemnation, pronounces judgment upon him, and condemns his soul to return to earth under the form of a pig or some unclean animal . . . (*Egyptians*, Vol. V, p. 447).

In a previous chapter we noted that the doctrine of pre-existence was based partially upon the belief that the stars were people in spirit form, and that the constellations pictured those people. But there were not only *people* pictured in the constellations, but *animals* as well. It was only logical to suppose, then, that these pre-existent spirits could take the forms of animals as well. Here we have the basis for the doctrine of reincarnation.

It was taught that unrepentant sinners (those who did not join a Babylonian church denomination) would be reincarnated into various animals according to their vices. For example, a glutton could be reincarnated into a pig.

Those who suffer in this present life were said to be expiating for the sins of their past lives. Thus it would never do for a slave to try to better his position in this life. He must submit and be a good slave, accepting the punishment in this life, in order to receive a better position in the next incarnation. Likewise, the masters of slaves had a good excuse for mistreating their slaves and never freeing them, since they had no right to go against the will of the gods in easing the punishment he deserved.

Let us first examine the Bible and see if reincarnation is taught anywhere in the Scriptures.

One of the favorite Bible passages which reincarnationists use in their attempt to deceive Christians is found in Mark 9:11-13.

And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?

And he answered and told them, Elias verily cometh first and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at naught.

But I say unto you, that Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

Matthew's account of this scene shows that Jesus was speaking of John the Baptist:

For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come (Matt. 11:13, 14).

At first glance it would appear that Jesus meant to teach the doctrine of reincarnation. But in the light of other Scriptures, this is shown to be a false interpretation of Jesus' words. Let us start at the beginning when John was born. The angel appeared to John's father and told him that he would have a son.

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Luke 1:17).

He was to come *in the spirit and power of Elias* (Elijah), not the reincarnation of Elias. In other words, he was to have the same type of ministry. A particular type of "spirit" was to be upon him, anointing him to a definite ministry.

The Jews of that day, having been taught the Babylonian Talmud, believed the doctrine of reincarnation. Thus they speculated if Jesus was the reincarnation of one of the prophets. Jesus asked His disciples:

Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets (Matt. 16:13, 14).

At that point Jesus asked them their opinion, and Peter confessed that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus called Peter "blessed" for that doctrinal statement, perhaps because it showed that Peter was not deceived by Talmudic lies.

John himself also attempted to suppress the doctrine:

And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, *I am not*. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, *No*. (John 1:21).

For further study in Elijah and his peculiar ministry today, see Pastor Emry's *Behold, I Will Send You Elijah The Prophet*.

John the Baptist was no more the reincarnation of Elijah than Jesus was the reincarnation of Adam. Jesus is called the Second Adam (1 Cor. 15:45), but that does not make Him the reincarnation of Adam. Just as the first Adam was the firstborn of *creation*, so also was Christ the firstborn of the *new creation*, that is, the resurrection.

Some will dispute this, using Colossians 1:15, with the claim that Christ is a created being ("creature"):

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

The verse does *not* say, however, that Christ is a created being, but simply that he is *the firstborn of every creature*. We must continue reading in order to understand what Paul meant by this phrase:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; *all things were created by him and for him*.

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (literally, *have their cohesion*).

And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, *the firstborn from the dead*; that in all things he might have the preeminence (Col. 1:16-18).

Thus the context makes it clear that Christ is the firstborn *from the dead* of every creature. He is the first one to be resurrected to immortality, as we again read of Him:

Who only ("alone") hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto . . . (1 Tim. 6:16).

We have already shown that Adam and his descendants did not pre-exist in heaven. But we see of Jesus that "*all things were created by him and for him, and he is before all things*" (Col. 1:16, 17). Christ had to have existed prior to creation in order to create all things. John too tells us:

All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1:3).

We conclude then that Christ was the pre-existent Creator of all things and *all people, including Adam*. Adam and Jesus were two distinct individuals, the one bringing death upon all men through sin, the other bringing life to all (Rom. 5:18; 1 Cor. 15:22). The doctrine that Adam was Christ makes Christ a sinner. But the Bible teaches of Christ:

And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and *in him is no sin* (1 John 3:5).

For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps;

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth (1 Peter 2:21, 22).

Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, *yet without sin* (Heb. 4:14, 15).

Adam did sin; Jesus did not. To teach otherwise is to disregard what the Scriptures plainly say. If Christ had been imperfect, He could not have offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. But we need not fear that His death could not save us, for we are told in the Scriptures:

And *being made perfect*, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (Heb. 5:9).

Some claim that Jesus was the reincarnation of David. First they quote the following to prove that David will reign over Israel personally:

But they shall serve the Lord their God, and *David* their king, whom I will raise up unto them (Jer. 30:9).

Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and *David* their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days (Hosea 3:5).

Then they quote Luke 1:33 to show that David, who was to reign over the house of Israel, is also Christ:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

David did not live a perfect life, so, according to reincarnationists, he had to try again in another life. Thus he was reincarnated they say, into Jesus' body, and then proceeded to live the perfect life. Then he was found eligible to ascend into the heavens and take his place among the stars.

This view is clearly unscriptural, however. Weeks after Jesus' ascension into the heavens, Peter said:

For David is not ascended into the heavens . . . (Acts 2:34).

Jesus said:

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but *he that came down from heaven*, even the Son of man which is in heaven (John 3:13).

We see then that (1) Jesus came down from heaven when He was born, and (2) David was not in heaven when Jesus was born. Therefore, we can conclude that David could not have come down from heaven to inhabit Jesus' body.

Furthermore, Christ could not have been the reincarnation of *anyone*, because, according to the reincarnation theory, those who go to heaven are those who were perfected here on earth. Once in heaven, they are not supposed to have to return to another life of suffering on earth. To suppose that a perfected man first went to heaven and then again had to be reincarnated to suffer in another body is an inherent contradiction in this theory.

Thus, not only the Bible refutes the theory that Jesus was the reincarnation of David, but also the reincarnation theory itself disallows it.

Jesus is the Greater David, in the sense that He has a similar *ministry* to that of David, but on a greater scale. This anointing, or calling, is specifically that His throne is to be established forever (2 Samuel 7:16), and that He will rule the world in righteousness. David was a great warrior-king, and Christ too will come soon to destroy His enemies before setting up His Kingdom. The ministry of David is the important factor here, just as the *ministry* of Elijah was in the case of John the Baptist.

The pagan philosophers had differing opinions concerning reincarnation, but only on minor points. For instance,

Plato believed that souls could not return to the heavens until they had lived at least three virtuous lives on earth. (The Jews, incidentally, agreed with Plato). The Manicheans, however, thought five to be the minimum.

Those who reached the higher degrees of perfection were then taught the “deeper truths” of the immortality-reincarnation dogma. These doctrines were simply reinterpreted to mean something else. In fact, when all the facts were bared, it became clear that immortality did not mean that man could never die, nor did reincarnation really mean that man himself lived again in another body. *The upper-degree priests knew that both doctrines were false*, but they used them to hide the true materialistic nature of their religion.

We have already explained how the Creator-God was suppressed in favor of the “High Priest” God. Without a Creator-God as such, it is only logical that immortality simply would be a man’s natural ability to reproduce himself. In other words, the only way people could live on after death would be to pass their souls down to the next generation.

It now becomes clear why the Babylonian priests honored and worshipped the serpent as being their god, and why they also taught that the serpent’s seduction of Eve was a good thing, rather than a sin. According to their doctrinal scheme, Adam and Eve would never have attained “immortality” (the ability to reproduce) had not the serpent taught them the “secret” of sex. These ancient priests interpreted the serpent’s deception sexually, because they did not believe in immortality at all. The only immortality they recognized was that of passing their genetic heritage down to the next generation.

Thus, the pursuit of heaven and immortality inevitably involved the worship of sex and fertility. All the temple prostitution had as its basis the doctrine of the soul’s “immortality.” No one could join their denomination unless he “believed in immortality” (i.e., had sex with the sodomite). All the statues in the groves were pornographic, designed to stimulate the “worshippers” sexually. Adam

and Eve fell through sex, they claimed, and their salvation was back through the same door. Sex was the highest physical experience, and by its fruit they would inherit "eternal life."

If immortality was simply procreation, as the priests taught in the upper degrees, then reincarnation too needed reinterpretation. If there was no immortality, then there could be no reincarnation either. When a man died, he simply would turn back to dust and minerals. Then plants would absorb these minerals, a cow would eat the plants, and *presto!* That man was said to be "reincarnated" into a cow. If the cow was subsequently butchered and consumed in a Babylonian fast-food restaurant, he once again would undergo a "reincarnation" cycle, having been absorbed into a human being.

Sooner or later, he would be fortunate enough to be eaten by the highest man in creation, the high priest, whereupon he was said to have finally become a god. Having been absorbed into the high priest (god), the person would not be reincarnated further, for when the high priest died, he was embalmed and buried in a sealed tomb. Great care was taken that he did not turn back to dust, in order to prevent him from being absorbed into any plants. Thus, they claimed, he had attained the heavens, for he would not be reincarnated again. Servius, commenting on Virgil's *Aeneid*, said:

The wise Egyptians took care to embalm their bodies, and deposit them in catacombs, in order that the soul might be preserved for a long time in connection with the body, and might not soon be alienated (Hall, *Secret Teachings*, p. 48).

Hall also quotes the book, *Egyptian Magic*, by "S.S.D.D.," which says:

There is every reason to suppose that only those who had received some grade of initiation were mum-

mified; for it is certain that in the eyes of the Egyptians, *mummification effectually prevented reincarnation* (p. 48).

This reinterpreted principle of reincarnation was the basis of Cannibalism among the priests of Baal (the "Cahna-Bals"). The priests of Baal believed that when they shed the blood of an innocent baby and partook of its flesh, they absorbed its spirit and its innocent perfection. Thus the baby-killings were not demanded solely for the justification of the parents, but also to satisfy the priestly lust for power.

The belief was also widespread in Africa among the primitive Negroes that those who could eat other men and drink their blood would attain their spirits and thus their power. Along with their eating women and children, the warring tribesmen desired especially to kill and eat enemy *warriors*, for they believed that this would make them that much more powerful.

When the white man arrived in Africa with his superior weapons and knowledge, the tribesmen naturally coveted his powerful "spirit." Missionary stew was a popular dish for many years, because the Negroes believed the white man's intelligence could be transferred to themselves by digestion.

We have seen that the purpose of mummification was to stop the cycles of reincarnation. A man's state after death depended upon the burial given to him by the priests. Stopping the reincarnation cycles did not depend upon his obedience to God, but rather upon his obedience to the priests. For this reason the priests were able to bind the ignorant with iron bands, demanding obedience and threatening hell-fire in purgatory, followed by a low estate in the next incarnation. But all the time they were deliberately deceiving the people in order to establish their dictatorial form of government. A dictatorship is a religion of the "Deified Man."

Man has always considered himself to be the highest form of nature. In his natural conceit, he considers himself to

be the sole ruler of nature, a position he assumes by “divine right.” Since all of nature collectively was “God,” and man was the head of nature, then it only followed that there could be no higher power than the most powerful *man*. Thus, the whole religious structure of Babylon rested upon the perfection and deification of man through his own efforts and wisdom. In an article in the appendix of Ouvaroff’s *Eleusinian Mysteries*, we read:

Accordingly the Mysteries were termed *Teletae*, “perfections,” because they were supposed to induce a perfectness of life. Those who were purified by them were styled *Teloumenoi* and *Tetelesmenoi*, that is, “brought . . . to perfection,” which depended on the exertions of the individual (p. 183, 184).

Theoretically then, the wisest man alive had the divine right to rule the rest of mankind and all of nature. Thus the *high priest* ruled as God, since he was believed to possess all the “secrets” of nature. He was believed to be the one most qualified to know good from evil, and his word became law. His priests enforced his religious doctrines and condemned all dissenters (heretics) to hell.

The high priest ruled by revelation, rather than by the pre-written Law of the God of the Bible. No man could question his absolute authority. His will was the will of God, and his decisions were the decisions of God. He ruled as *absolute dictator*. This shows the political side of Mystery Babylon. We see it in the world today under the guise of *Communism*. Communism is a religion in which Karl Marx (their *god*) gave them his laws, and Lenin (their *christ*) interpreted them and put them into practice.

The word *religion* comes from a Latin word, *religare*, which means “to hold back, bind fast.” Webster’s Dictionary defines religion as:

The service and adoration of God or a god as

expressed in forms of worship, in obedience to divine commands . . .

The divine commands of a religion are those given by its god, the supreme authority of that religion.

All political systems and all laws are by their very nature *religious*. Laws define right from wrong, sin from righteousness. Political systems are religions which claim to offer to mankind the perfect society, the utopia, the salvation of mankind, the kingdom of their god, and literally, *heaven on earth*. They all attempt to spread their god's concepts of morality by defining good and evil. That which is defined as *good* by their "prophets" and "priests" is made the law of the nation. Infractions of these religious laws are punished by the *State*.

A Christian nation is one which enforces the moral system set forth in the Bible. It is written by God Himself and does not give any man the right to disagree with His definitions of morality. The Bible always defines sin in terms of its own Law. The Bible claims that any nation which follows *its* Law will be blessed above all people. It is the perfect Law of liberty, the only perfect standard, the legal system of the true Kingdom of God.

In the Christian nation that is ruled by this Law, there is no dictator or earthly king who stands above God and His Law. No civil ruler of any rank is immune from prosecution if he breaks the Law of God. The Christian nation is ruled by God's Law alone, and not by men. It has only one King—Jesus Christ.

For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5).

America was founded by men who were products of the Protestant Reformation. They were men who believed, by and large, that the dead slept until the resurrection, and that God's Law was to be obeyed above any man-made law. But through the centuries the enemy has crept into the Church

unawares and has leavened the whole nation. With the re-establishment of Babylonian doctrines has come the doctrines of innate immortality, innate "wisdom," the pre-tribulation rapture into heaven, hell-fire torture and purgatory for those outside their denomination, and many others.

The results have been devastating. With these doctrines has come another form of mystery religion, where the preacher is the final authority on doctrinal matters, and the parishioners are bottle-fed once a week on a deadly mixture of the milk of the gospel and the wine of Babylon.

America now suffers from all the curses of the Law which God said would come upon us in our disobedience (Lev. 26). We have raised up a generation of sex-worshippers, against which the churches are powerless. Sex is today the single most powerful force that molds the lives of our youth in America. How long will it be before we reach the place where our society is as corrupt as in ancient Babylon? Let us repent and turn to God's Law and follow Christ.

IX. WHY ALL THE MYSTERY?

Revelation 17 speaks of "Mystery Babylon the Great." It is no accident that the word "Mystery" is used here. The word literally means "*secret*," or "*occult*." The rites of most false religions are known as "Religious Mysteries."

It appears that Nimrod, after establishing his empire in Babylon, later went to Egypt, where he ruled until overthrown by his great-uncle, Shem (called Typhon or Set by the Egyptians). Nimrod was subsequently executed and dismembered as a lesson to the world and to the apostates. Hislop tells us:

The terror of an execution, inflicted on one so mighty as Nimrod, made it needful that, for some time to come at least, the extreme caution should be used. In these circumstances, then, began, there can hardly be a doubt, that system of "Mystery," which, having Babylon for its centre, has spread over the world. In these Mysteries, under the seal of secrecy and the sanction of an oath, and by means of all the fertile resources of magic, men were gradually led back to all the idolatry that had been publicly suppressed . . . (*The Two Babylons*, pp. 66, 67).

While the priests of the Mysteries professed to have the keys to the salvation of mankind, they were bound by oath not to enlighten anyone who was not an initiate. This secrecy was a powerful tool in the hands of the priests in controlling the people and hiding their true designs. Jesus said:

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, *because their deeds were evil.*

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither

cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God (John 3:19-21).

Those whose deeds are evil would rather move around in darkness and secrecy, hidden from everyone else. Such is the nature of Mystery religions. Those who are of the Truth are anxious to come into the light, because they are unashamed of their works and unafraid to be seen practicing their doctrines. In fact, they are more than willing that others scrutinize them to see if their works are truly “wrought in God.”

It is characteristic of modern occult “prophets” to teach that Jesus was a great teacher, or a great spiritual medium, a great magician who had learned the secrets of the Egyptian priests, and so on. They also try to convince Christians that Jesus taught these secrets only to his twelve disciples, while he taught lies to the public. They attempt to place Jesus on the side of the occultists to make Mystery Babylon palatable to the unwary Christian. But Jesus said:

I spake *openly* to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and *in secret have I said nothing* (John 18:20).

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (John 6:37).

Paul warned the Ephesians about joining secret religions:

But have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them *in secret*.

But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light; for whatsoever doth make manifest is light (Eph. 5:11-13).

Only by complete subservience could the initiate hope to advance in this religious system, learn their so-called "wisdom," and thus earn a proper burial that would save him. The novices were led blindly (but very obediently) in a huge religious slave ring, hoping to be good enough to advance toward their salvation. The ultimate sin was rebellion to the priestly hierarchy.

In the Mystery religious system it was necessary that no one, not even the initiates, ever learned the so-called *final secret*. All were kept in darkness, but the initiates were lured deeper and deeper into darkness by riddles and enigmas which had no answer. But because they believed that their high priest did indeed possess the *final secret*, they allowed themselves to be enslaved to their "wise" masters.

X.
MYSTERY BABYLON AND JUDAISM

ORIGIN OF THE TALMUD

Seventy years after the Judean remnant was carried captive into Babylon, a small minority of the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi returned to the old land to rebuild the city and the temple. The majority, however, remained in Babylon, having been well-integrated into that society and having incorporated Babylonian religion into their own. It was at this time that the Talmud and other secret writings began to be written.

The Jews who wrote the *Babylonian Talmud* had been indoctrinated in the religious principles of Babylon. Because the Jewish exile served to emphasize their nationalism, they viewed these Babylonian "truths" as rightfully belonging to them. Thus they incorporated the doctrines of Mystery Babylon into their Talmudic writings.

The Jew who led this descent into Babylonian influence, the real founder of Judaism as we know it today, was a man called Zoroaster. There seem to have been two Zoroasters in history, which makes this point somewhat confusing. There was (1) the Jew from Bactria who lived around the time of the Judean captivity, who was either named Zoroaster or took that name upon himself, and (2) there was the original Zoroaster from Chaldea, who according to Epiphanus, was . . .

. . . Nimrod, that established the sciences of magic and astronomy, the invention of which was subsequently attributed to (the Bactrian) Zoroaster (*Two Babylons*, p. 67).

Bernier tells us just how important the Bactrian Zoroaster is to modern Judaism:

Certain traditions give to Zoroaster, a Jewish Prophet, as Master . . . But on the other hand, Chaldean thought acted powerfully upon orthodox Judaism and determined the growth of a sect in its midst which was to transform Israel . . . This sect was that of the "Pharisees" . . . What they borrowed (from the Chaldeans) in fact . . . was the essence of the *pantheistic doctrine* . . . From these borrowings . . . the *Kabalah* of the Pharisees . . . was, 800 years later, to inspire the compilation of the *Talmud*, and found its completest expression in the *Sepher ha Zohar* . . . This religion of the "Deified Man," with which they were impregnated in Babylon, was only conceived as benefiting the Jew, superior and predestined being (Inquire Within, *Light-Bearers of Darkness*, p. 12).

It was in Babylon that this corrupted segment of Judah began to think of themselves as the God-people, rather than the People of God. Professor H. Graetz, in his *History of the Jews*, says:

. . . The Babylonian Talmud rather than the Jerusalem Talmud became the fundamental possession of the Jewish race, its life breath, its very soul . . . (Vol. 2, p. 631).

Harmsworth's *History of the World* says:

Judaism was not evolved in Judah; it was in Babylon that Judaism first became that which it was and still is (Vol. 3, p. 1781-4).

Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer, the official spokesman for the American Jewish Committee, wrote:

The Talmud consists of 63 books of legal, ethical, and historical writings of the ancient rabbis. It was edited

five centuries after the birth of Jesus. It is a compendium of law and lore. It is the legal code which *forms the basis of Jewish religious law* and it is the textbook used in the training of rabbis (Look Magazine, "What Is A Jew?," June 17, 1952).

MYSTERY BABYLON IN THE TALMUD

Having written the Talmudic writings over a period of 1,100 years, the Rabbis finally edited and canonized them in Babylon around 500 A.D. These writings had already supplanted the true religion of the Bible by the time of Christ. Michael Rodkinson, a Jew, wrote:

What is the Talmud? The Talmud, then, is the written form of that which, in the time of Jesus was called *the traditions of the elders* and to which he makes frequent allusions (*History of the Talmud*, p. 70).

Jesus must have had a very low opinion of these traditions, for He said:

Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep *your own tradition* (Mark 7:9).

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines *the commandments of men* (Matt. 15:9).

In other words Jesus accused the Pharisees of considering their own writings to be more important than Scripture. The Talmud itself bears witness to this ungodly teaching, for it reads:

The teachings of the Talmud stand above all other laws. They are more important than the laws of Moses (Rabbi Ismael).

The decisions of the Talmud are words of the living God. Jehovah Himself asks the opinion of the early rabbis when there are difficult affairs in heaven (Rabbi Menachem Commentary on Fifth Book).

This religion of the Talmud was first called "Judaism" by Josephus in the first century, in order to distinguish it from "Hellenism." However, the Jews considered Josephus a traitor and refused even to read his writings. Thus they continued to call their religion "Phariseeism" until many centuries later. Rabbi Louis Finkelstein of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, wrote:

Pharisaism became Talmudism, Talmudism became Medieval Rabbinism, and Medieval Rabbinism became Modern Rabbinism. Both throughout these changes in name . . . the spirit of the ancient Pharisees survives, *unaltered* . . . (*The Pharisees, the Sociological Background of Their Faith*, p. 21).

The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, under "Pharisees," says:

The Jewish religion as it is today traces its descent, without a break, through all the centuries, from the Pharisees . . . The *Talmud* is the largest and most important single member of that literature . . . and the study of it is essential for any real understanding of Phariseeism.

Let us study the Talmud briefly, then, since we must do so to understand Phariseeism.

We have shown previously that the doctrines of Babylon lead to dictatorship in government. In Judaism this takes the form of an oligarchy (rule by the few—the Jews). They consider themselves to be above the Law of God and do not believe that any non-Jew has any rights at all, not even the right to belong to the human race. The Talmud says:

Jehovah created the non-Jew in human form so that the Jew would not have to be served by beasts. The non-Jew is consequently *an animal in human form*, and condemned to serve the Jew day and night (Midrasch Talpioth).

A Jew may do to a non-Jewess what he can do. He may treat her as he treats a piece of meat (Nadarine, 20,B; Schudchan Aruch, Choszen Hamiszpat 348).

On the house of the goy (non-Jew) one looks as on the fold of cattle (Tosefta, Erubin VII,1).

When the Messiah comes every Jew will have 2800 slaves (Simeon Haddarsen).

When the modern churches support Zionism and teach that this is something God Himself supports, they commit blasphemy by attributing to God things which never came into His mind. Thievery is commanded in the Talmud, and when churches support Zionism, they say that God condones thievery doctrines such as:

All property of other nations belongs to the Jewish nation, which consequently is entitled to seize upon it without any scruples. An Orthodox Jew is not bound to observe principles of morality towards people of other tribes. He may act contrary to morality, if profitable to himself or to Jews in general (Schulchan Aruch).

Five things has Canaan recommended to his sons: "Love each other, love the robbery, hate your masters and never tell the truth" (Pesachim F. 113B).

The very fact that so few people are aware of the malicious intent of the Talmud and its adherents shows that

Judaism is a Mystery Religion. The Talmud commands absolute secrecy in order to hide its true objectives:

To communicate anything to a goy (non-Jew) about our religious relations would be equal to the killing of all Jews, for if the goyim knew what we teach about them, they would kill us openly (Libbre David 37).

Every goy who studies the Talmud and every Jew who helps him in it, ought to die (Sanhedryn 59a).

If a Jew be called upon to explain any part of the Rabbinic books, he ought to give only a false explanation. Whoever will violate this order shall be put to death (Libbre David 37).

The Talmud obviously not only condones but commands the murder of those who reveal the contents of the Talmud and expose its religious doctrines. The Jews feel no guilt in murdering and then lying, because they all recite the "Kol Nidre" (All Vows) prayer each year on the "Day of Atonement." This absolves them of any guilt. It is recited three times by the standing congregation along with the rabbi:

All vows, obligations, oaths, anathemas, whether called "konam," "konas," or by any other name, which we may vow, or swear, or pledge, or whereby we may be bound, *from this day of atonement unto the next*, (whose happy coming we await), we do repent. May they be deemed absolved, forgiven, annulled, and void and made of no effect; they shall not bind us nor have power over us. The vows shall not be reckoned vows; the obligations shall not be obligatory; nor the oaths be oaths.

The irony of it is that many churches, in their concurrence with this doctrine of devils, heartily ring their

bells as a gesture of good will at the start of this day (sundown, Yom Kipper). Is it out of ignorance? Or are there secret Jews in those pulpits?

The Bible contains a long record of godly prophets who attempted to expose Mystery Babylon in Israel and who died for their stand:

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment;

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth (Heb. 11:36-38).

The Apostle Paul says of the Jews that they . . .

. . . both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and *are contrary to all men* (1 Thess. 2:15).

Jewish hatred of Christianity will never die, because Jesus and His disciples exposed the Mystery Babylon in Phariseism. St. Justin said in the mid-second century:

. . . but they (the Jews) though they read (the Scriptures) do not understand what is said, but count us foes and enemies; and, like yourselves (the Romans), *they kill and punish us whenever they have the power*, as you can well believe. For in the Jewish war which lately raged, Barchochebas, the leader of the revolt of the Jews, gave orders that Christians alone should be led to cruel punishments, unless they

would deny Jesus Christ and utter blasphemy (*First Apology*, ch. 31).

In Justin's *Dialogue With Trypho*, which is a book written specially to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ, we read, concerning the Jewish exile from Palestine:

Accordingly, these things have happened to you in fairness and justice, for you have slain the Just One, and His prophets before Him; and now you reject those who hope in him, and in Him who sent Him—God the Almighty and Maker of all things—*cursing in your synagogues* those that believe on Christ. For you have not the power to lay hands on us, on account of those who now have the mastery. *But as often as you could, you did so* (ch. 16).

For other nations have not inflicted on us and on Christ this wrong to such an extent as you have, who in very deed are the authors of the wicked prejudice against the Just One, and us who hold by Him. For after that you had crucified Him . . . when you knew that He had risen from the dead and ascended to heaven . . . you selected and sent out from Jerusalem chosen men through all the land to tell that the godless heresy of the Christians had sprung up, and to publish those things which all they who knew us not speak against us. So that *you are the cause* not only of your own unrighteousness, but in fact of that of all other men . . . Accordingly, you displayed great zeal in publishing throughout all the land bitter and dark and unjust things against the only blameless and righteous Light sent by God (ch. 17).

About the Jewish proselytes, Justin wrote:

But the proselytes not only do not believe, but twofold more than yourselves blaspheme His name, and wish

December 21, 1977

Why I became a Jew

By PAT BOONE
Copley News Service

Dear Pat Boone:

More and more I hear you talking about Jewish things on television.

My question is, have you converted to Judaism?

Dear Myron:

In a very real way, you could say that I've become Jewish.

This is true of my whole family. Obviously, none of us has been born in a racially Jewish family — but we do strongly identify with the ancient heritage of the people of Israel, and feel that we have been adopted into that "chosen" family.

My oldest daughter, Cherry, reads and writes Hebrew, and is married to Dan O'Neill, who not only is fluent in Hebrew, but who lived and worked on two Israeli kibbutzim during the time surrounding the Yom Kippur war.

Occasionally, we have special Hanukkah parties in our home, and attend services at a nearby conservative temple.

Why?

Aren't we Christians? Yes, we are. And that's why we're feeling so Jewish!

What so few people realize these days is that Christianity is a Jewish religion! In fact, as I have explained to a number of rabbis (who have most frequently agreed with me), I see Judaism as divided into four main branches: Ortho-

dox, Conservative, Reformed — and Christian.

We're members of the Christian branch of Judaism.

Abraham is the father of the Arab, the Jew — and the true Christian. God told him that through his offspring, he would bless all the people of the world. And he's done it.

Yes, I have become a Jew. My whole family have become Jews, following the Rabbi and Messiah Yeshua. We have placed our lives and destinies in the hands of the Carpenter from Nazareth who gave His life for us and about whom John proclaimed: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world!"

When my family and I were in Israel a couple of years ago, we discovered that Jews everywhere in that land acknowledge that there was a historical Yeshua who lived around the Sea of Galilee, who performed wonderful miracles, who was crucified outside the city of Jerusalem, and who was a "wonderful teacher." Their faith in the reality of the man Jesus was stronger in most cases than many Christians in this country. But how could a man be a "wonderful teacher" and a demented egomaniac at the same time?

Compare Pat Boone's attitude toward Judaism with that of Jesus, Paul, and Justin.

to torture and put to death us who believe in Him; *for in all points they strive to be like you* (ch. 122).

Jesus said of the Pharisees:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves (Matt. 23:15).

The Talmud (Makkoth 7b) proclaims Jews innocent if they murder Christians, and also says (Zohar II, 43a) that their extermination is a necessary *sacrifice*. Like communism, the Talmudic religion calls for the murder of all Christians. It is the modern form of human sacrifice offered to Baal. *It is their religion*. For further study into the Biblical statements condemning Talmudic Jewry, see Pastor Emrys' *Who Killed Christ?*

Today's propagandists would have us believe that the Jews are an oppressed people in communist countries, although Jews are the only people allowed to leave at all. Among Jewish circles, however, the real facts are openly bared. George Marlen, a Jewish author, stated in 1937:

If the tide of history does not turn toward Communist internationalism . . . then the Jewish race is doomed (*Stalin, Trotsky, or Lenin*, p. 414).

Harry Waton, another Jewish writer, wrote:

The Jews have a right to subordinate to themselves the rest of mankind and to be masters over the earth . . . This is the historic destiny of the Jews (*A Program for the Jews and an Answer to All Anti-Semites*, pp. 99, 100).

It is not an accident that *Judaism gave birth to Marxism*, and it is not an accident that the Jews

readily took up Marxism; all this is in perfect accord with the progress of Judaism and the Jews (*Ibid.*, p. 148).

The communist soul is the soul of Judaism (*Ibid.*, p. 143).

According to I. Rennap (Jewish writer), Karl Marx, the founder of modern Communism . . .

. . . came from an old . . . family of rabbis and brilliant Talmudic scholars (*Anti-Semitism and the Jewish Question*, p. 31).

Dennis Prager, another Jew said:

In many ways Marxism is a secular Messianic offshoot of Judaism . . . ("The Times of Israel," Oct., 1973).

After giving examples of the objectives common to both Judaism and Marxism, Prager continues:

These similarities reveal Judaism's contribution to Marx's thought.

So it should come as no surprise that communism is simply Talmudic Judaism in disguise. They have a single common goal—to destroy the Kingdom of God and to set up the Kingdom of Antichrist. Whereas the communist governments have always taken steps to eradicate Christianity, they have been the saviors of Judaism.

Rabbi Moses Miller, President of the Communist Jewish People's Committee for United Action Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, wrote a booklet called *Soviet "Anti-Semitism" The Big Lie!* On page 23, under the heading, "Soviet Fight Against Racism," he says:

From the very first day of its existence, the Soviet Union took steps to eradicate anti-Semitism. On July 27, 1919, a special decree was issued (by the Communist Government) against anti-Semitism.

Article 123 of the Soviet Constitution guarantees Jewish "equality," and any violation of this is punishable by death. The Constitution of the Communist Party of the U.S. in Article VI, Section 7 reads:

It shall be the obligation of all Party members to struggle against all forms of national oppression, national chauvinism, discrimination and segregation, against all ideological influences and practices of "racial" theories, such as white chauvinism and anti-Semitism.

It is well-known to those who have taken the time to study its origins that communism was founded, financed, and propagated by the Talmudists. According to a leading Jewish magazine:

The Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was the work of Jewish brains, of Jewish dissatisfaction, of Jewish planning, whose goal is to create a new order in the world. What was performed in so excellent a way in Russia, *thanks to Jewish brains* . . . shall also, through the same Jewish mental and physical forces, become a reality over all the world ("American Hebrew," Sept. 10, 1920).

The Jewish-controlled *New York Times* lauded the head of the Jewish banking house of Kuhn-Loeb:

The Kerensky Revolution was financed by a banker you all know and loved—Jacob Schiff (March 24, 1917).

The Jews are not only the fathers of modern communism but were the ones who brought Babylonian witchcraft into the western world as well. In fact, communism was founded in the late 18th century by Jews actively practicing witchcraft.

There are six levels of witchcraft: (1) those first exposed to the occult, ESP, ouija boards, often in schools or on TV; (2) those interested enough to pursue it further with crystal balls, seances, etc.; (3) those who join the actual witchcraft covens, in which there are three levels up to that of the high priest; (4) high priests who are able to attain political offices or high educative positions; (5) the messengers who carry the orders to the political leaders in level 4 from (6) the Grand Druid Council of 13. The Lord High Priest of the Occult who heads this Grand Druid Council is a parapsychologist, Dr. Raymond Buckland of Long Island, New York.

Johnny Todd was a member of the Grand Druid Council of 13 until September of 1972, when he professed conversion to Christianity. Until that time, he knew no other religion, for his ancestors had practiced witchcraft for over 700 years. Todd testified that the covens in level 3 were actively involved in human sacrifices. Level 4, he claimed, contain the members of the Council on Foreign Relations, which, he also claimed, was the *secret government* in America. He also confirmed what many patriotic writers have already written—that the CFR is also the organization that controls the American branch of communism.

Those who have studied the occult know that witchcraft traces its origin to Mystery Babylon and its founder, Nimrod. The major political arm of Mystery Babylon today is communism. The true leaders of communism are conscious priests of Baal, and they regularly sacrifice Christians upon their altars. It is their religion.

MYSTERY BABYLON IN THE "ZOHAR HA SEEPHER"

The secret Jewish religion is based upon the Talmud, which finds its highest glories in the *Zohar ha Sepher*

(“Book of Splendor”). The doctrinal structure is based upon the Babylonian sexual interpretation of the tree of life and of knowledge. The book claims that the story of creation is a veil of the sex mystery, known as the “Mystery of Faith” and the “Supreme Mystery.”

Through this “mystery” we are all incarnated in bondage to physical bodies here on earth, and only through this mystery—sexual union—may we be liberated from mortality and the physical body. Sex is the Law of Liberation. The Talmud says:

When the serpent copulated with Eve he infused her with lust. The lust of the Israelites who stood at Mount Sinai came to an end, the lust of idolators who did not stand at Mount Sinai did not come to an end (Yebamoth, 103a-103b).

R. Eleasar further stated: What is meant by the Scriptural text, “This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh?” (footnote: emphasis on *This is now*). *This teaches that Adam had intercourse with every beast and animal* but found no satisfaction until he cohabited with Eve (Yebamoth, 63a).

This doctrine that Adam was promiscuous and practiced bestiality is the Jewish interpretation of Genesis 2:16, which says:

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.”

Not only was Adam said to have had sexual relations with the beasts of the Garden, but also it was taught that Adam had a Negro wife named *Lilith* before the creation of Eve. Since the Jews learned these doctrines from Babylon, we can assume that bestiality and intermarriage were also a part of the Babylonian religious worship. This particular passage of the Talmud quoted above spends much time dealing with

bestiality—when it is permitted by their law, and when it is not. In Yebamoth, 59b, Rabbi Shimi ben Hiyya said:

A woman who had intercourse with a beast is eligible to marry a priest (footnote: Even a High Priest. The result of such intercourse being regarded as a mere wound, and the opinion that does not regard an accidentally injured hymen as a disqualification does not so regard such an intercourse either.)

Because such words are offensive to true Christians, we will refrain from quoting further on this distasteful subject and continue our discussion of the *Zohar*. It teaches that the Serpent, called *Samael*, had sexual relations with Eve, thus defiling her. Then Eve in turn defiled Adam in the same way. The *Zohar* goes on to teach that the Serpent (who is said to be God, or at least *their* god) was the father of Cain.

The doctrinal structure in the *Zohar* is illustrated by a phallic “tree of life” and its ten “Sephiroth” (degrees, or steps to sexual perfection). The first *sepher* is *Yesod*, the organ of generation, and this step corresponds to the moon in the other Mystery religions. *Yesod* means “foundation,” showing that sexual generation is the foundation, or beginning, of the road to salvation.

The *Zohar* teaches that sexual union is the true mission of man on the earth, and that the male separated from the female (that is, a male virgin) does not have a true right to the title “man.” It further teaches that if a man fails to have children in his lifetime, he must be reincarnated until he fulfills this “holy” obligation. Only those men who have produced male issue will enjoy the inheritance of God and be united with Him in the heavens.

The Jews are well known to be on a quest for the long-lost pronunciation of the Sacred Name of God, YHWH. The exact pronunciation of this name is said to have been lost through the centuries. The Jews have an elaborate and complicated theosophy centered around the Sacred Name.

The core of their teaching, though, is as follows: Y = male; H = female; W = offspring.

To have God's Name upon them, they teach, they must fulfill their "sacred" duty to have offspring, for that is their first step to perfection. Only through sex can they climb the ten-runged ladder of the "tree of life" to the perfection of the *Shekinah*, that is, the state of perfect liberty in sexual expression.

Christians often use the term *shekinah* to describe the glory of God or the fire of His presence. The word is not found in the Bible, but it comes from the Hebrew word *shakan* ("to dwell"), and the Jews relate it to *shakab* ("to lie down sexually"). Thus in Judaism those who learn the perfect methods of performing the sex act attain the glory of the *shekinah*.

In the *Zohar* God is spoken of as being the *Shekinah*, and in order for a Jew to reach perfection and become a god, he must attain this state of sexual glory, or ecstasy. *The Shekinah is their god*. Interpreted sexually, they define "god" as being the state of liberation that is attained in uninhibited sexual activity.

The goal of a follower of true Judaism is to regain the *Shekinah-glory* that was lost when Adam was barred from the Garden of Eden. In Jewish thought this simply refers to their goal of eradicating all sexual inhibitions, in order to regain the sexual freedom that Adam supposedly enjoyed before the creation of Eve.

With this in mind, the reader would do well to read again the section in chapter seven on the modern feminist movement. The leaders of this movement are two Judaizers, Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem, and they are advocating the "liberated sexuality" taught in the *Zohar*. They are female Pharisees of whom Jesus said:

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves (Matt. 23:15).



Dear Abby

by
**ABIGAIL
VAN BUREN**

DEAR ABBY: When I read the small print at the end of your column claiming that you send personal replies to those who send a stamped, addressed envelope, I didn't really believe it. But my life was such a total mess, that I had nothing to lose but the price of two postage stamps, so I took a chance and wrote to you.

Abby, your response changed my life. I went to a marriage counselor as you suggested and found that he was on the same wave length as I! Pow, it happened! After

living with the wrong person for 19 years, I am moving in with the marriage counselor. He's Jewish and gay, about my age, and the most intellectually stimulating and wonderfully sympathetic person I've ever met.

I'm off the booze, off the valium, and off women forever. My indebtedness is endless. —
**LIVING AT LAST IN
SAN FRANCISCO**

DEAR LIVING:
Mazeltov! (Translation:
Congratulations.)

Millions of Americans read the advice given by Abigail Van Buren. Few realize that she is a Jewish missionary attempting to get others to adopt the permissive life style advocated by Judaism.

Religious Jews are normally very careful to circumcise their male offspring in the prescribed manner. The reason this ritual is so important to Judaism is because to them it is the symbol of all "purity" in sexual intercourse. Only he who preserves this sign fulfills the law, providing he completes his divine mission of generating offspring. Those who do not are condemned to be reincarnated. Women are neither circumcised nor reincarnated, they say.

Finally, the *Zohar* interprets the coming of the Messiah (Christ) as meaning the attainment of perfection up the ladder of the "tree of life." The symbol of perfection and the coming of the Messiah is the *interlaced triangle*, the six-pointed star.

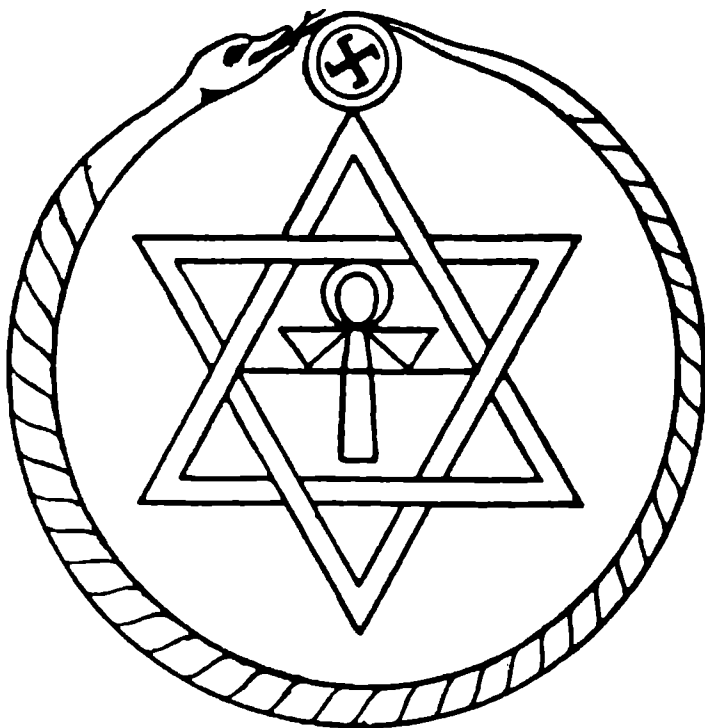
The true origin of the six-pointed "star of David" is unknown, although it has been found on tablets dating before the time of Abraham. In the 1800's the Jews began to use it openly as the symbol of their "Messiah," in connection with the modern Zionist movement.

The Jews interpret the interlaced triangle sexually also. The triangle above is the male, and the lower one is the female. The triangle, with its perfectly symmetrical sides, represents perfection. Therefore, the interlaced triangle signifies their "Messiah," perfection in sexual union and procreation.

The interlaced triangle is often pictured today with the Egyptian Ankh in the center and encircled by a *serpent*.

The Ankh in the centre (of the interlaced triangle) is the Egyptian symbol of life, it is the creative principle, the *Lingam*. The encircling serpent isolates, conserving the force within, rendering powerful the illumined tool. This tool is ready for the appointed work; he is free, not to use his freedom for himself, but for these masters. It is a liberation into bondage (*Light-Bearers of Darkness*, p. 51).

Lingam is a Sanskrit word meaning "Phallus," which in turn is the real meaning of "Life," or immortality in this



The interlaced triangle symbolizes sexual union, and the Egyptian Ankh (lingam) in the center is the phallic symbol of immortality. Together they are interpreted to mean that immortality is through sexual union. The serpent circling the figure shows the origin of this doctrine.

religion. In the August 1928 issue of the occult "International Review of the Secret Societies" was an article on the interlaced triangle as it related to Judaism:

In the centre of the figure, the symbolism of whose interlacing is apparent enough to make explanations unnecessary, is the great and mysterious *lingam* . . . Its situation in the middle of the interlaced black and white triangles, points out, under another form, *the union of the sexes*. Usually in the upper and lower angles of Solomon's Seal are the letters—*Alpha* and *Omega*. The sides of the triangles are enlarged in order to receive a letter inscribed at each of the four angles. These four letters form the Hebrew word (*Eheieh*) initial and final, by which Jehovah taught Moses His incommensurable name: "*I am that I am.*"

The syntactical union of this word with the letters Alpha and Omega, and the signs of the lingam, in the interlaced triangles of Solomon's Seal, gives therefore the text: "I lingam, I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the eternal Pan."

This Babylonian sex religion was imported to the West by the Jews. Professor Sayce tells us:

This is not the place to dwell upon the influence which Babylonian culture has exercised upon us of the modern world. It has come to us through the Jews of the Exile and the Greeks of the Alexandrine age. The decipherment of the clay records of Chaldea is beginning to make clear the obligations of the Chosen People (!) to their Babylonian conquerors (*Races*, p. 142).

Thus an understanding of these Judaistic principles and their Babylonian origin is absolutely essential, in order to

comprehend the true nature of the conflict between communism and Christianity. This knowledge is also necessary to gain an understanding of modern false religions and occult societies. The Jews have infiltrated and influenced all the world's major religions and denominations and are Judaizing them as quickly as possible. *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* says:

The goyim are a flock of sheep, and we are their wolves. And you know what happens when the wolves get hold of the flock? (Protocol 11).

Yes, we know what happens, for it is happening to us today, just as the Bible warned would happen:

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Matt. 7:15).

For I (Paul) know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock (Acts 20:29).

Christianity is plagued today by wolves in sheep's clothing, who are attempting to bring us all under the control of Judaistic communism. Millions have been taught that Judaism is the perfect religion, except that they simply have not yet accepted Jesus as their Messiah. Preachers all across the nation tell us that if they were not Christians, they would follow Judaism as their next choice. Many Christians actually convert to Judaism, because they think that Judaism plus Jesus equals the perfect religion. Even the media uses the phrase *Judeo-Christian* at every turn, in order to condition us to think that Christians have the same ethical laws as do the Jews.

There is absolutely no doctrinal connection between Judaism and true Christianity. Judaism follows the Talmudic (Babylonian) law; Christianity follows the Bible Law. They are opposites and can never be reconciled one

with the other. One leads to the communistic kingdom of Satan; the other leads to the Kingdom of God.

These two systems are locked in a death-struggle today. No man can serve two masters; and all must choose between Nimrod and Jesus. All must decide which set of laws they will follow: those of Babylon, or those that Christ gave to Moses at Mount Sinai. "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15).

XI. CONCLUSION

The basic error of the Babylonian religion was its teaching that the trees of the Garden were other people. That doctrine set the stage for the idea that all wisdom can be reduced to the law of sex and procreation.

Babylonian promiscuity and intermarriage were attempts to regain the sexual freedom that Adam supposedly enjoyed before being expelled from Eden. Thus, the serpent's "wisdom" reduced the Babylonians to the amoral level of beasts.

God's Law defines the true morality, and any "new morality" is simply the old *immorality* that originated with the Mystery religions. The Bible states that wisdom comes only from God, and it is not attained by sex, but through prayer:

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning (James 1:17).

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (James 1:5).

Morality, as defined by God's Law, is the one factor that distinguishes man from the rest of creation. We all die like beasts, says Solomon (Eccl. 3:18-22). But God's moral Law was not given to the beasts, but to Adam and his descendants. Promiscuity is not a sin for the animals; but to mankind it is a sin unto death. The animal world is ruled by the survival of the fittest, by *might makes right*. Man's world is to be ruled by *Justice* as defined by God's Law.

God's Law provides the blueprint for a perfect government, in which all the citizens may live in harmony and freedom. This is the Law of the Kingdom of God upon

the earth. Therefore, Satan has attempted to undermine this Law by substituting it with sex.

When Nimrod founded the religion of Babylon, the sexual interpretation of the fall was the most basic doctrine of his religion. He was the builder, king, and high priest of Babylon. His was the first antichrist government after the flood. He substituted sex for the Law of God and taught it to the whole civilization he conquered. The most basic effect of this doctrine was to reduce the entire population to the status of beasts in the realm of sexual activity. The entire nation was required to have sex with a stranger before marriage.

Nimrod replaced the Law of God with his own definitions of morality, based upon his interpretation of the fall of Adam and Eve. When God's moral Law is replaced, then of course, the penalties for breaking the Law must be changed as well. According to the Bible, the ultimate penalty for breaking God's Law is death:

The wages of sin is *death* (Romans 6:23).

The soul that sinneth (breaks God's Law), it shall *die* (Ez. 18:4).

God's judgments are full of love and mercy to both the criminal and the victim, whereas the judgments that man enacts are often hideous. Contrary to popular opinion today, the death penalty is very merciful. Man's "new morality" demands that society treat murderers like animals and put them in cages for the rest of their lives. God's Law mercifully commands that we put them to death. This is merciful to both society and the law-breaker.

Man's "new morality" demands that society cage all convicted thieves and feed them at society's expense in a *human zoo*. God's compassionate Law commands that convicted thieves repay at least double what they stole as restitution to their victims. God's commandments are "holy, and just and good" (Romans 7:12).

Religious dictators, who set aside the compassionate judgments of God and substitute their own "revelations," invariably will also enact judgments that are cruel and unscriptural. God, in his compassion, demands only death as the most extreme punishment for breaking His Law. But these religious dictators, who care nothing for God's Law, contradict God's judgment by parroting the serpent's lie: *Thou shalt not surely die*, but you shall continue in conscious existence after you are dead; furthermore, you shall be *tortured for eternity* as punishment for breaking the laws of my "new morality," which I have commanded.

They claim, often in the name of a loving God, that eternal torture is a fair retribution for the sins of a few score years on earth. In fact, they claim that eternal torture is a just punishment for even *any one sin* committed in this life. God demands that the punishment fit the crime; those who set aside God's Law in the name of "love" demand eternal torture!

Then they establish a priesthood, which they claim is the only agency of God that has the power to alleviate those future tortures. In this way the religious dictators exert tremendous power over the minds of those who believe them and follow their "new morality."

Thus the people, wherever the Babylonian system spread, were bound neck and heel to the priests. The priests were the only depositories of religious knowledge; they only had the true tradition, by which the writs and symbols of the public religion could be interpreted; and without blind and implicit submission to them, what was necessary for salvation could not be known (*The Two Babylons*, p. 7).

When God's just judgments are set aside, men always turn to earthly kings and dictators, who rule by their own wisdom, revelation, and laws. Then man finds himself enslaved to his own religious and political governments.

When man turns from the true freedom found only by following God's perfect Law of Liberty, he brings tribulation upon himself, the curses of the Law. And he finds no escape route, except he see the truth of God's Word:

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:36).

Liberty under God's Law is our God-given inheritance. When the Protestant reformers of 400 years ago discovered this liberty, they forsook the Papal dictatorship. God opened their eyes to the truth of His Word, and they rejected the serpent's lies taught by the Catholic church. Martin Luther wrote:

My Hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust *the serpent's lie*,
Concerning immortality.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

The pilgrim fathers, who carried this liberty to the New World, understood it to be rooted in God's Law alone. Their understanding of this basic Bible doctrine laid the foundation for America to expand in liberty and become the wealthiest and most powerful nation in the history of the world.

Then in the last century the doctrines of the conscious existence of the dead and of a coming secret rapture of the church to heaven largely replaced the Gospel of the Kingdom and its liberty under the Law of God.

The result has been that America's Bible-based laws have been phased out or altered to fit the false doctrines of Mystery Babylon. The antichrists have spread the doctrines

of Mystery Babylon, and the freedom of Christians under God's Law is rapidly disappearing.

And he (an angel from heaven) cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen . . .

And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all (Rev. 18:2, 21).

In that same prophesy of Babylon's destruction, God has called His people to separate themselves from this iniquity.

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (Rev. 18:4).

As a beginning, that certainly is a call for God's people to separate themselves from churches and religions that teach the doctrines which we have shown to be those of Mystery Babylon.

In some cases this may leave you without a church, as was the case with the pilgrim fathers, who were forced to separate themselves from the Church of England. If you will take that step, God will open your eyes to additional truth and provide the way for you to worship Him in truth and in righteousness.

As Abraham of old, you may have to leave without knowing whither you are going:

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went (Heb. 11:8).

God has promised to destroy Babylon and to subject the world under His righteous Law. Those who place their faith in God's Word and are obedient to it shall be unafraid in that day, when God shakes the earth.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock (Ps. 27:5).

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